THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. BAPU KALDATE): We adjourn this discussion because we have to take up Short Duration Discussion.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Sir, I am finishing in just two minutes.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. BAPU KALDATE): You may take just one minute.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Yes Sir. I will take only one minute.

Sir, I don't accept the view expressed by Dr. Narreddy Thulasi Reddy that the Legislative Council is a white elephant. Next Sir, the National Front Government should have a clear-cut policy on Legislative Councils. Whether there should be Legislative Councils or not? They should make up their mind and have some kind of uniformity throughout the country. With these words I conclude.

3.00 P.M.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: Is the hon. Member supporting the Bill or opposing the Bill? What is the position?

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: At the initial stage, Mr. Minister, I said, I am supporting the Bill.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: The reason for this doubt was that he was speaking about the double standard. I think his Party asked for abolition at that time. He is supporting the Bill now. That is why the doubt has arisen.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: At the initial stage, I said I am supporting the Bill. If the Minister could not understand, I am not in a position to help him.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. BAPU KALDATE): Shri Gurudas Das Gupta to start the Short Duration Discussion.

SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN: We did not support the abolition. We do not have the double standard in the matter.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. BAPU KALDATE): Mr. Ramachandran, we are going to the next subject.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: I think, this debate will go on till 6 p.m.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. BAPU KALDATE): Shri Gurudas Das Gupta.

SHORT DURATION DISCUSSION RE STEEP RISE IN PRICES OF ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: (West Bengal): Sir, the National Front in its election manifesto had promised effective measures to curb the price rise and to bring down the prices of the essential commodities. The Finance Miinster, in his Budget Speech has said, "the first task of the new Government was to contain the rising prices. A Cabinet Committee had been formed and effective steps were taken to ensure supply of essential commodities and break the inflation commodities and contain inflation." Then again on the 14th April the Reserve Bank announced a multipoint plan of action to moderate credit expansion and curb the factors that fuel inflation. Then days later, our hon Finance Minister issued a statement in Bombay that prices of sugar, tea edible oil among other commodities would come down soon. This was the pronouncement and this was the promise of the National Front Government. What has been impact? That is my question. And what has been the action plan that is actually translated?

Sir, I have collected various data from the markets in Delhi and around Sugar is being sold at Rs. 10. It was Rs. 8.50 previously. Loose tea is being sold at Rs. 65. Before Budget it was Rs. 55. Pulses are selling at a higher rate during the last three months. Kabuli Chana has gone up to 18 from Rs. 13. Arhar Dal has gone up to Rs. 13 from Rs. 10 Moong Da has gone up to Rs. 13 from Rs. 10

Another category of Dal has increased by Rs. 2. More steep is the rise in the prices of spices. Vanaspati price has increased to Rs. 31 from Rs. 27. Sir, today morning I range up Calcutta to find out the Calcutta market condition. It is almost the same, or may be a little more dismal. Sugar is being sold at Rs. 10. The prices of different categories of Dal have increased at least by Rs. 2 or Rs. 3 Potato price has been increased by 50 paise, In case of meat, the increase has been at least by Rs. 5 to Rs. 7. This is the price situation prevailing in the country despite the prouncement our hon. Finance Minister had made on April 23.

Now, Sir, look at another aspect of the problem, the fallacy in price rise. The procurement price of wheat has been increased. We welcome the step because the peasants stand to gain. The price has been increased from Rs. 200 per quintal to Rs. 213. Now, what is the price at which wheat is being sold from the ration shop? Normally, it should have been Rs. 2.13 per Kg. But the price that is being charged in the ration shops is Rs. 2.44.

In the case of sugar, the price rise is sought to be explained away by the fact of loss of production, or, shortfall in production. What was the margin? Sugar production had fallen by five lakh tonnes. This shortfall should have been counterbalanced by the carry-over stock of last year, i.e., 11.5 lakh tonnes. Therefore, it cannot be the reason. The shortfall in production cannot be the reason for the rise in the price of sugar from Rs. 8.50 to Rs. 10 per kg. You cannot explain it away like that.

In regard to cement, the problem is much more interesting. The private sector cement units have formed a cartel. They have formed a cartel to curtail the production. The production has been pegged at 45 million tonnes when the cement factories in the country could produce 60 million tonnes. Therefore, it is a case of deliberate shortage. The cement manufacturers are vying with each other to increase the price.

Then, why should there be an increase in the price of kerosene? The Minister did not impose any tax on kerosene. But the price of kerosene has gone up by Rs. 3 per litre.

These are the fallacies in the market condition, in the price condition, that we are confronted with. Why is it so? It is so because the market is a seller's market. The prices can be manipulated to the advantage of businessmen to earn super profits, with impunity. The economy has been abjectly handed over to speculators and the Government is having no control over the price line whatsoever. Sir, it is quite well known that the price problem is not the child of the present Government. It is the illegitimate creation of the previous Governments. Therefore, if the Government wanted to restore normalcy in the market condition, wanted to retrieve the position, they should have taken a different line What the Government in some cases, is doing is, actually, it is in collusion. Let me give two examples.

This Government discontinued the import of edible oil. This only resulted in cease in price. The Government discontinued the import of edible oil when the price condition in the market was, in fact, alarming. The discontinuance of imports led to price rise.

I give you another example. This is in the case of Delhi. For 14 per cent increase in the price of petrol, the fare charged by the authorickshaws has been increased by 18 per cent. with the connivance and blessings of the Delhi Administration, along with an additional 80 paise per every trip.

As you know, prices have been going up ever since last year, i.e., 1989-90. Prices have increased abnormally. We have been acquainted with the phenomenon of price rise over a long period of time. But during the

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last year, prices have increased abnormally though the country had two good monsoons and two bumper crops Therefore, the price rise, which is a legacy of the past, cannot be explained away in terms of scarcity in the market or short supply. What was needed was that the Government should have acted with determination, decisiveness and defiance. But, unfortunately, this Government acted differently. That is why the wholesale price index, as on 21st April, 1990, stood at 172 points with 1980 as the base year and the consumer price index reached a new high of 863 points with 1982 as the base year. This is the condition we are faced with today. Now the point is that this new Government is a government of change, a government born out of the desire of the people for change. It came to power and was confronted with the problem of price rise from the day it assumed office. And being confronted with the problem of price rise, what had this Government done? It is neither fair, nor good political statesmanship, to explain every thing in terms of the misdeed of the previous regim. This Government has been in office for six months. Therefore, confronted with the problem of abnormal price rise what had this Government done? It is in terms of that that the performance of this Government can and should be judged.

The first act of the Government was the Railway Budget which brought in indiscriminate fare and freight raise, resulting in higher transport costs.

The second thing that this Government did was to produce a deficit Budget with the same gap as in the last year.

The third act of the Government had been imposing of tax on petrol, thereby increasing the transport cost and fuelling price rise again. And while deciding about the Budget it had leaned heavily on indirect taxes. Sir, as you know, indirect taxes are having their evil impact on the prices in the country.

The fourth action that the Government has taken is to issue statements that people will be arrested. This holding out of threat frightens nobody because people have been allowed to live with the type of government which always shouts but does not act. So it has threatened to arrest but has not till now arrested a single soul on the charge of profiteering and black-marketing. Therefore this empty threat is not going to frighten anybody. This the present Ministers should kindly understand.

The fifth step that has brought discredit to the Government is not to strengthen the public distribution system, but to create a situation where non-availability of rations in a number of ration shops becomes a common phenomenon. I rang up my family today and I was told by my wife that my family has not been able to draw ration for two successive weeks because there was no supply to ration shops. It is not because of the Left Front Government of West Bengal. but because the foodstuffs have not been supplied. Therefore, when the necessity was to streamline the public distribution system, the Government did otherwise.

So this is the situation we are confronted with. Except rhetoric, what have we? We see inaction, not action; we see non-performance, not performance. Sir, inaction instead of action, non-performance instead of performance, that is in terms of what the situation is to be judged.

Therefore, Sir, may I submit, with humility, that Government should not encourage any statistical jugglery to show that there has been a fall, or a marginal fall in the price of this or that commodity. Government should not find satisfaction in the truth that the price of cement has increased or

decreased by only ten rupees. Yesterday there was a bang on the television — I do not know whether it is use or misuse of it — in the National Network at least for one minute showing to people that the price of cement had decreased by Rs. 10. But it had increased from Rs. 62 to Rs. 105 per bag. The price has decreased by Rs. 10 and, therefore, the fanfare! Therefore, I suggest that the Government should not believe that something substantial is going to be done because some important person has held out a threat. This is a Government of consensus and this is a Government bound to be of consensus, but the problem of rising prices cannot be solved on the basis of consensus. It is not through negotiations, not through softpedalling, not through holding out threats, not through a compromise across the table that Prof. Dandavate is going to bring about a magic change in the price spiral. Some hard action is necessary.

The proof of the pudding is in the eating of it. Therefore, the policy of the Government would be judged in terms of the effect it is going to make on the sensitive economy of the country, on the results it is able to produce to bring about a fall in the prices. Therefore, I suggest that if the Government starts believing that some magic can be done, because there has been a fall in the price of cement or because somebody has held out a threat, then the Government is going to seriously underestimate the inherent inflationary potential of the economy. Something more important has to be done. There must be a break with the past. Prof. Dandavate is known for his socialism or his socialist concept. To what extent he has diluted it, I do not know, but he must understand, as a social activist, that something hard has to be done. New ground has to be broken, new policies have to be formulated and the newly formulated policies have to be implemented.

Sir, in conclusion what I would suggest is, there is an unusual expansion of liquidity in the market, and this unusual expansion of liquidity in the market must be curbed — without which there cannot be any appreciable improvement in the price situation of the country. Secondly, Sir, there has to be disciplining of the market. The market has to be disciplined. Delinquency has to be suppressed and black money and black trade have to be counteracted by the Government with specific and selective measures. There must be expansion of the public distribution system. Sir, I demand that the unorganized workers belonging to the rural economy—who are the most hard-hit in this situation of spiralling prices — should be given subsidized rations through the public distribution system.

I also demand that the Government must withdraw the tax on petrol... *(Interruptions)*...

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH (West Bengal): Petrol and diesel, specially diesel. *(Interruptions)*...

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Both petrol and diesel. But because petrol is used for general transport, I insist that the Government should seriously consider the question of rationing petrol. There must be a proper management of the supply policy, and this is the time for austerity and keeing the budgetary gap at the minimum.

Sir, here I have a small statistic which suggests that the Government policy is not being executed. In the last 22 weeks preceding the 23rd of March, when this Government was in

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power for most of the time, the Reserve Bank had advanced Rs. 4,710 crores to the Government. It is much more than what was expected. Therefore, the credit management policy of the banks and the national financial instiutions must be seriously revamped and recast.

Lastly, above all and after all, it is that political will which is necessary. I do not know whether the Government is ready to catch the tycoons of the society, whether the Government is ready to haul up the culprits, whether the Government is ready to take its policy to its logical conclusion or whether it is going to be empty threats from the mouth of Mr. V. P. Singh or from the mouth of Prof. Dandavate as they had been from the mouth of Mr. Rajiv Gandhi and Mr. S. B. Chavan. I want this Government to change its policy, to change its policy in terms of action. If the policy of the Government is not changed, if you cannot bring down the prices, you erode your credibility. And if your credibility is eroded, it means disaster for the country. We want this Government to stay. This criticism is a non-antagonistic criticism. I do not want this Government to go. I want this Government to change its policy. If the Government is not able to bring down the prices, its credibility is going to be ruined, and the political process of this country is going to be ruined. We want this Government to stay. Therefore, we want this Government to come up to the expectations. We want this Government to implement its pledge not in words but in deeds. I believe that Prof. Dandavate who is a socialist leader has not forgotten his socialist-existence after becoming the Finance Minister of India.

Thank you, Sir.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI): (Maharashtra): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, the National Front Government came to power. But before the National Front came to power, it made some promises in its manifesto, and one of the important promises it made is that on coming to power it would reduce the prices and that it would stop inflation. The people had high hopes. After taking the oath of office, the Prime Minister went to his office and called all the Secretaries of the different economic departments and discussed with them measures and steps to check inflation. A Cabinet Committee was appointed to monitor and see how the prices can be brought down. Five months have passed, and what is the picture today?

Sir, the Finance Minister has given reasons for the increase in the prices, and one of the reasons advocated by him is that there is a rapid expansion in the money supply. Secondly he said that there was a heavy deficit and that they wanted to bring down the deficit so that the prices may come down. But how has he brought down this deficit in this Budget? I can borrow Rs. 6,000 crores more and can bring down the budget deficit. But what will be the effect next year? If I borrow Rs. 6,000 crores more this year, I have to pay interest on that, and that deficit will increase year after year. This is what I have seen. I have seen in the capital receipts that this time the capital receipts are more by Rs. 5,200 crores as compared with those of the previous year. Prof. Dandavate has also said that one of the reasons for the price rise is the borrowing by the Government But they have not cared to see that this borrowing is checked. He also said that as far as the external borrowing is concerned, that also is one of the factors for the price rise. What has happened in this budget also is that the external assistance is higher than what was in the last year. I would like to know from the hon. Minister what he has to say on this point.

Regarding the money supply, I have got some facts and figures, and I would like to place them because the Prime Minister and the Finance Minister always say that Rajiv Gandhi's Government has increased the money supply to such an extent that the prices are going up. What is the picture today? What is the situation after this Government came to power? As far as money supply is concerned, I am not going into the period of 1978-79, when there was the highest growth of money supply. It was a time when the Janata Government was in power. It was more than 21 per cent as compared to earlier periods. Here I would not refer to the old figures; but to current figures. As regards money supply, in the year 1988-89, it was 17.7 per cent. The year as on 26-1-1990, it was 14.9 per cent. On 23-2-1990 it went up by 16.5 per cent. So, when you came to power, earlier the growth of money supply was 14.9 per cent and now as on 23-2-1990 it went up to 16.5 per cent. So, instead of decreasing the growth of money supply, you have rather increased it. And you say Rajiv Gandhi Government had done it! So, I would like to know from the Minister, instead of curtailing the money supply, why have you increased it? If anybody is responsible for the price rise, it is this Government.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): The situation is still worse. It is 19.4 per cent.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: I am giving the facts because you have always said that the Rajiv Gandhi Government is responsible. These are the figures, which I am quoting, from your own statistics.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: I am supporting you. The situation is still worse. It is 19.4 per cent.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: So, you should say that you have utterly failed and you could not do it.

As regards the price rise, it is not that after the Budget proposals the prices have gone up, they had gone up even earlier. I would like to let you know the price situation prevailing before the Budget was presented. On January 29, the wholesale price index at 1981-82 prices stood at 166.8 On February 3, i.e. within 15 days, it went up by 0.6 per cent On March 3, ie. in one month, the prices went up by 1.6 per cent. This is before the Budget proposals. And what has happened after the Budget proposals? From 168.6, the index jumped to 171.6 i.e it had gone up by 2.8 per cent. So, before the Budget the situation was like that and after the Budget the situation aggravated still further. At present the prices on weekly basis are going up by 5.5 per cent. And if you consider the lean months ahead, the prices may go up to 26 per cent. I may tell you, if this trend continues, the record of 1978-79, which was 21.1 per cent, will be broken and the people's fate will be completely sealed. They will not be able to purchase their daily necessities. If that is so, I would like to know from the Government what action it has taken to check the prices from going up further.

Yesterday only some newspapers reported Prof. Dandavate saying that after he took actions — I do not know what actions he has taken — the prices are coming down. I will give you the figures of today only to show what has happened. Sugar prices of yesterday, have gone up today by Rs. 10 to Rs. 15 per quintal. Yesterday's price of wheat and gram today has gone up by Rs. 10. Yesterday's price of mustard and cotten seeds, which are being used by the Vanaspati industry, has gone up in one day by Rs. 30 per quintal. What about the price of sesame oil? To what extent it has gone up? It has gone up by Rs. 80 per quintal in one day. You have the cheek to say that the prices are going down. I would like to give the prices of some essential commodities which were prevailing on 31st December, 1989 and

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on 11th May, 1990. Jowar which was Rs. 237.50 per quintal has gone up to Rs 262.50. Bajra which was Rs. 275 has gone up to Rs. 325. It was increased by Rs. 50 Gram dal which was Rs. 687 has gone up to Rs. 812.50. Urad dal which was Rs. 925 has gone up to Rs. 1125. Arhar dal which was Rs. 825 has gone up to Rs. 1050 and Moong dal which as Rs. 875 has gone up to Rs. 1000.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: These prices are with the Minister.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: Anyway I will hand over this to him.

Regarding cement prices, what has Mr. Dandavate said in Bombay? The industrialists have agreed to sell cement at the prices prevailing in the first week of March, 1990. He said that the price of cement will be fixed as it was in the first week of March, 1990. To a starred question on the 14th May, 1990, the Minister has said that cement will be taxed as on 31st March, 1990 whereas Mr. Dandavate said that it will be available at the price prevailing in the first week of March, 1990. What has happened in 23 days? I have high regard for Mr. Dandavate, for his honesty, integrity and intentions. Earlier it was agreed that cement will be sold at the price prevailing in the first week of March, 1990. Why was the cement price revised? I feel that there is something wrong. Will you order an enquiry if there is a *prima facie* case? Your Government is fond of filing FIRs. Let the truth come out. You have asked the cement manufacturers to reform the prices. What was the price of cement on 31st March, 1990? What was the price of cement in the months of January and February? It was less than Rs. 70. Now cement is selling at Rs. 82 or Rs. 83 per bag. How can we provide cement at this price for Government projects? Who is responsible for this price rise? I would like to know the answer from the hon. Minister. (*Time bell rings*) I will take some more time because my party has given me more time.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. BAPU KALDATE): I am only saying that there are six more Members from your side. Therefore, I am thinking of adjusting all of you. If you are taking more time, I will have to curtail the time for other Members.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: When Mr Chavan was the Chief Minister, I was handling the civil supplies department I was regulating the prices of sugar. Regarding sugar, Sugar Control Order is there. According to the Sugar Control Order, every week some specific percentage of sugar has not only to be lifted but it should reach the place of destination. Sugar prices have been going up since the last four months and now you say, if it is not done, you will take stern action. Why didn't the Government take any action earlier knowing very well that according to the Sugar Control Order, it has to be sold? Why that action was not taken? Only by threats, I do not think you are going to get result. Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh, before one month — if I remember correctly — gave the first threat in a public meeting. But after that also, the prices are going up. Now again you have given the threat yesterday. Only threats will not work. You have to take very strong action against the hoarders, against the profiteers. But as your Government is supported by a party which has vested interest in the traders and those traders who indulge in hoarding, I do not think, even though you have intention I know your honesty, I know your intention— you will be able to do it. I am doubtful about that. If you can do it, I shall be one of the persons who will definitely feel that you have done something. But I feel that if with that party's support you are going to rule, if you will do it, then some of these leaders will come to you and I do not know what is going to happen.

(*Interruptions*).

As far as the CPI(M) and the Left Parties are concerned... (*Interruptions*).

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: But the Left will not allow us to take support.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: But you are doing it. Now regarding the refined oil, it is being sold at Rs. 45 per kg. Why such an exorbitant price is there? When it is refined—I am talking about the groundnut oil—2 per cent wastage is there. If the groundnut oil price is Rs. 31, then why it is sold at Rs. 45 per kg. and what action the Government has taken? I would like to know from the Minister what the Government is going to do about that. Are we going to stop refining? Who eats refined oil? It is all those who have got big bungalows and cars and the poor consumers take only what you call unrefined oil. In Maharashtra, when the prices of oil were going up, we took a strong decision that we shall not allow the refined oil to be manufactured in our State and the prices came down. I would like to know what is the action plan of the Government to contain the prices. We have not heard anything except that tea was exported to Russia. There was a proposal before your Government that we shall export 25 000 tonnes of mustard oil. Porf. Dandavate, I remember during Assembly elections, I had read it that 25 000 tonnes of mustard oil will be exported. Then you wanted to review the price of edible oils. There was this psychology that this Government is going to export mustard oil. And immediately thereafter the prices of mustard oil went up only because Jyoi Basu Ji, the Chief Minister of West Bengal and the Civil Supplies. Minister approached the Civil Supplies Department of the Government of India. Then Mr. Nathu Ram Mirdha had told that now we have stoped that export. But he did no mention it in the House. But I know that. I read it. It was the State Government of West Bengal because mustard oil is consumed mostly in West Bengal. Bihar and U P. The damage is already done. The prices have gone up. I would like to ask the hon. Minister: If this type of actions are taken by the Government, how are you going to bring down the prices? Now, I would like to give some suggestions.

As far as prices are concerned, I do think very strongly, that we have a socialist economy. If there is a gap between the demand and the supply I have nothing to say. But if supplies are curtailed artificially, as has been done in the case of sugar, prices will certainly go up. If supplies of sugar are curtailed by artificial methods like not bringing it in the market, keeping it in sugar mills or in the godowns of traders, how are you gong to achieve price reduction? You see that there is no artificial curtailment of supplies.

Then I would suggest that the margin of profit should be fixed. Fix a reasonable margin of profit with regard to commodities of mass-consumption. If that margin is exceeded, there should be punishment as in the case of essential commodities. Will you do it? I think that this Government has no guts to do it. If you think that market forces will reduce prices, I am sure you will not succeed. There should be fixation of the margin of profit of industry, at the wholesale level and at the retail level, on some of the consumer items. If this is done, I think you will be able to do something.

Coming to the next point, you have reduced the corporate tax from 50 per cent to 40 per cent. I am surprised. When you want to mobilise resources, why do you do this? You say that you have removed concessions and so you have reduced the tax. All right. Now these companies will be able to give more dividends. Will you restrict the payment of dividend to 12 per cent? The payment in cash of dividends should be restricted to 12 per cent. The remaining portion will be with the companies as deposits. This action was taken when Indiraji was there. We have done it earlier. The Government should consider this. No company should give dividend in excess

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of 12 per cent and the remaineder will be as deposits and the companies may give lesser rates of interest. If this is done, that money will be utilised for expansion of production. More goods will be produced and to some extent, prices can be brought down.

This Government said that they will give all kinds of incentives for establishing more consumer industries. In these six months, how many licences for manufacture of mass-consumption items have been given? That was one of the promises given by them. They said they would give impetus, concession and all help for consumer industries engaged in manufacture of items of consumption of the masses. What have you done in this direction? I would also like to know whether you are going to establish some such industries in the public sector also so that you can stop profiteering by private manufacturers.

I have given some positive suggestions. I think it is high time that actions were taken against hoarders and blackmarketeers and price rice controlled. Otherwise, I am afraid, it will beat all the records, even the record of 1979-80 when inflation was 21.1 per cent. And I hope that Mr. Dandavate who has got socialistic leanings will take care of this and will take action on it and that he will come with an action plan and tell us what decision has been taken by the Cabinet Sub-Committee, to what extent it is going to be implemented and what they are doing because yesterday also there was a meeting of the PAC. I feel that now the time has come. We gave them five months' time, but when we thought that nothing had been done, we had no alternative but to organise rallies—Congress Party rallies—and lakhs and lakhs of people took part in them. So we want to open the eyes of the Government. If they are not able to deliver the goods, the people will not forgive them.

With these words, I hope, Mr. Dandavate will take necessary action and come with an action plan soon.

Thank you, Sir.

श्री दिग्विजय सिंह (बिहार) माननीय उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं अपनी तरफ से देश की तमाम करोड़ों जनता के साथ अपने आप को जोड़ रहा हूं, जो बढ़ती हुई मंहगाई का सामना कर रहे हैं। मगर इस मंहगाई का सीधा संबंध सरकार से कितनी ऊंचाई से और मजबूती से लो जोड़ने का काम कर रहे हैं, मैं समझता हूं कि जिम्मेदारी सरकार की है। महंगाई अगर बढ़ी रही है, तो उसकी जिम्मेदारी से हम मुक्त नहीं हो सकते हैं। मगर इस मंहगाई के बढ़ने के पीछे कारण क्या है? मैं समझता हूं कि इस मंहगाई के बढ़ने के तात्कालिक कारण हैं। एक तो यह है कि पिछले कुछ वर्षों से हम जिस तरह का बजट बनाते रहे हैं जिसमें हेवी और इंडिस्क्रिमिनेट डेफिसिट फाइनेंसिंग का प्रावधान करते आ रहे हैं। और अगर आंकड़ों को देखें, तो पता चलेगा कि 1985-86 में हमारा डेफिसिट फाइनेंसिंग करीब पांच हजार करोड़ का था यानी 4937 करोड़ था और उसके बाद यह करीब 8 हजार करोड़ हो गया उसके बाद आखिरी बजट 1988-89 में पेश हुआ, उसमें वह 7 हजार 400 करोड़ हो गया। इस प्रकार से डेफिसिट फाइनेंसिंग बढ़ता चला गया। मैं वित्त मंत्री जी को बधाई देना चाहता हूं कि इन डेफिसिट फाइनेंसिंग में भी बढ़ती हुई कीमतों को रोकने का काम उन्होंने किया है। अपने बजट के द्वारा उन्होंने यह काम किया है। मगर मामला यहीं खत्म नहीं हो जाता है। हम जिस तरीके से डेफिसिट फाइनेंसिंग को पूरा करते आ रहे हैं, उसका पिछले 7-8-10 वर्षों से बाजार पर बुरा प्रभाव पड़ा है। इसका क्रमबद्ध तरीके से बाजार पर प्रभाव पड़ा है। इसलिये अचानक मार्च के महीने में कीमतें बढ़ने लगीं और उसका बाजार पर प्रभाव बढ़ना शुरू हुआ। सरकार का यह प्रथम दायित्व है, प्रथम कर्त्तव्य है कि बढ़ती हुई कीमतों को रोकें। सरकार ने यह वायदा किया था कि हम बढ़ती हुई कीमतों को रोकेंगे

और सरकार ने मंहगाई को रोकने का काम भी किया है। इसलिये सरकार अपनी प्रतिबद्धता से पीछे नहीं हट रही है। एक बात हम भूल जाते हैं कि सरकार के खिलाफ कुछ तत्व हैं, जो इस सरकार का कमजोर दिखाना चाहते हैं और बदनाम करना चाहते हैं। बाजार में सीमेन्ट मौजूद था, फिर भी उसका कीमत बढ़ा दी गयी। सरमायेदारों को यह पसन्द नहीं था कि एक समाजवादी सरकार का समाजवादी मंत्री इस देश को आगे बढ़ाये इसलिये एक खास वर्ग के लोग और सरमायेदार इस देश के अन्दर ऐसा स्थिति पैदा करने लगे कि अचानक कीमतें बढ़ने लगीं। हमें पूरा यकीन है कि हमारे माननीय वित्त मंत्री जो यहां पर बैठे हुए हैं, वे अपनी ताकत से, अपनी बुद्धि से और अपनी अक्ल से उन सारे मनसूबों पर पानी फेरने के लिये कदम उठायेंगे। दूसरा जो मैं समझ रहा हूं, वह हमारा पब्लिक सैक्टर है। मैं प्राइवेट सेक्टर का हिमायती नहीं हूं मैं सिद्धांत रूप से मानता हूं कि इस देश में पब्लिक सैक्टर इस देश का विकास करने और इसको आगे बढ़ाने का काम करेगा। इसलिये पब्लिक सैक्टर जो पिछले 20-30 सालों से एक सरजर संस्था बनता जा रहा है, इसमें सुधार लाया जाये, तो पब्लिक सैक्टर में जो पूंजी लगी हुई है, उसको हम देश के विकास में लगा सकेंगे और उसमें जो पूंजी लगी हुई है, उसको हम कम कर सकेंगे। उसको हम आगे नहीं बढ़ा सके। आज जो ब्यूरोक्रेटस, जो आफिसर्स, जो प्रशासनिक अधिकारी पब्लिक सेक्टर में भेजे जाते हैं, उनको अपने आई०ए०एस० होने का गर्व होता है, बहुत तेज अक्लमन्द आदमी होने का गर्व होता है, जबकि हकीकत यह है कि पब्लिक सेक्टर हिन्दुस्तान के करोड़ों लोगों की आकांक्षाओं के अनुरूप इस देश के सामने नहीं आ सका है इसलिये आज इस बात की जरूरत है कि इस सरकार को पब्लिक सेक्टर को ऐसे सुदृढ़ ढंग से मजबूत करना चाहिये, जिसमें देश की जनता की आकांक्षाओं का काम पब्लिक सेक्टर कर सके।

तीसरी बात जो है, वह ब्लैक एकॉनमी की है। ब्लैक मनी जो बाजार में है, यह बढ़ता चला जा रहा है। रोजाना, दिन प्रति दिन और इस सरकार के आने के बाद भी, एक चीज मैं वित्त मंत्री जी से कहना चाहूंगा कि इस सरकार से यह उम्मीद थी कि सरकार इस ब्लैक मनी को रोकने के लिये बहुत जबर्दस्त कदम उठायेगी। दुर्भाग्य से ऐसा हुआ कि उन लोगों के मन में ऐसा लगने लगा है कि इस ब्लैक मनी को और भी बढ़ाया जा सकता है और यह कैसे बढ़ाया जा सकता है यह जो रियल स्टेट में वैल्थ टैक्स में जो बहुत ज्यादा प्रावधान किये गये हैं, हेवी टैक्सेस के, यह उसका नतीजा नजर आता है। वैल्थ टैक्स में अगर हैवी प्रावधान होता है, तो उससे आजकल रियल स्टेट में ब्रोकर्स, एजेन्ट और बिल्डर्स ये सारे लोग अपने काले धन का इस्तेमाल कर रहे हैं। ऐसे लोगों पर सरकार ज्यादा से ज्यादा ठोस कदम उठाये, उन पर रेड करे और सरकार इस पर पूरी ताकत लगाये, जिससे कि यह जो पैसा जमा हो रहा है, उस पैसे को निकाला जाये और उसे फिर बाजार में लाया जा सके।

माननीय वित्त मंत्री जी, आपको विरासत में जो ऐसी चीजें मिली हैं, वे भी आपकी परेशानी का कारण हो सकती हैं। यह सरकार अपने कुछ मूल्यों के लिये प्रतिबद्ध है। उन मूल्यों में एक प्रतिबद्धता यह भी है कि हम देश के सम्मान को रखते हुए ही कर्ज लेंगे। हम भूखे रह लेंगे, लेकिन देश के सम्मान पर अगर कोई आंच आती है, तो हम विदेशों से कर्जा नहीं लेंगे। 1955 में इस देश पर विदेशी कर्जा सिर्फ 47 मिलियन डालर था आज वह 44 बिलियन डालर हो गया है। जब भी दुनिया का कोई बड़ा देश, साम्राज्यवादी देश पैसा देता है, तो उसमें वह अपनी कुछ शर्तें भी रखता है। मुझे खुशी है कि देश की सरकार ने, देश के वित्त मंत्री ने देश की मर्यादा और इज्जत के सवाल पर किसी देश के साथ कोई समझौता नहीं किया है। शायद, इसीलिये, यह वजह

[श्री दिग्विजय सिंह]

है कि कुछ चीजें, जो हम इम्पोर्ट कर सकते थे, जो हम आयात कर सकते थे, उसको करने में हमारी सरकार अपने आप को सक्षम नहीं पा रही है। मगर मैं फिर कहूंगा और बड़ी सख्ती से कहूंगा कि देश की मर्यादा के सवाल पर, देश की इज्जत के सवाल पर अगर हम विदेशी कर्जा लेना चाहते हैं, तो हमें नहीं लेना चाहिये। इसके लिये यह सरकार और वित्त मंत्री दोनों बधाई के पात्र हैं।

मैं एक सवाल इस संबंध में और जोड़ना चाहूंगा। हमारा नेशनल डेरी डेवलपमेंट बोर्ड बना है। इस देश के अन्दर खाद्य तेलों का इंतजाम करने का काम इस संस्था को सौंपा गया है।

इस संस्था को 800 करोड़ रुपया रिजर्व बैंक से दिया गया कर्ज के रूप में कि आप कर्जा लेकर इन खाद्यान्नों को अपने पास रखिये ताकि इन चीजों का इस्तेमाल संकट के समय किया जा सके। आज क्या वजह है कि एडीबल आयल, जो खाने का तेल है, उसे वह संस्था लोगों को नहीं दे पा रही है कुछ लोग मुझ को बताते हैं कि उन लोगों के पास रिजर्व तेल हैं और कुछ लोग बताते हैं कि वे बताना नहीं चाहते कि उनके पास कितना रिजर्व तेल है। शायद, मार्किट के अपने नियम कुछ हों, बाजार के अपने कुछ नियम हों जिसकी वजह से यह नहीं बताना चाहते। लेकिन इस संस्था के पास, मेरी जानकारी के हिसाब से 5-6 लाख टन तेल मौजूद है। अगर इनके पास इतना खाद्य तेल मौजूद है तो ये उसको बाजार मे क्यों नहीं देते हैं।

श्री विठ्ठलभाई मोतीराम पटेल (गुजरात) : बाजार में मिलता है।

श्री दिग्विजय सिंह : नहीं मिलता है... **(व्यवधान)**...उनके पास स्टोर है... **(व्यवधान)**...

उपसभाध्यक्ष (डा० बापू कालदाते): उनको बोलने दीजिये।

श्री दिग्विजय सिंह : उनके पास स्टोर किया होता है तो इस स्टोर किये हुए खाद्यान्न तेल को बाजार मे क्यों नहीं दिया जा रहा है, यह मैं कह रहा था मार्किट में किलो, दो किलो की बात मैं नहीं कर रहा हूं। मैं कहना चाहता हूं कि जो बाजार में जरूरत है, उस हिसाब से इस खाद्यान्न तेल को बाजार में क्यों नहीं दिया जा रहा है। आपने एन०डी०डी०बी० जो संस्था बनाई है इसका क्या काम है। आखिर हजारों करोड़ देश के लोगों का पैसा यह संस्था लेती है। इसका कोई उत्तरदायित्व इस देश के सामने या सरकार के सामने है या नहीं है, वह मैं जानना चाहता हूं। इसलिए माननीय वित्त मंत्री जी आप इस संस्था पर अंकुश लगायें। वह इतना तेल अपने पास रखे जिससे बाजार में जब दाम बढ़ने शुरू हों तो सरकार उन दामों पर नियंत्रण कर सके ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री अनन्तराय देवशंकर दवे (गुजरात): उनके पास कितना स्टाक है जब उनके सामने यह सवाल रखा तो उन्होंने नहीं बताया और कहा कि It is not in public interest. इसलिए जो आप बात कर रहे है उससे मैं सहमत हूं और एन०डी०डी०बी० को तेल रिलीज करना ही चाहिए।

श्री दिग्विजय सिंह : यह सरकार राइट आफ इन्फलेशन के लिए प्रतिबद्ध है इस लिए यह सवाल आयेगा ही।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (डा० बापू कालदाते) : अगर उनका कहना ठीक नहीं तो आप भी कह सकते हैं।

श्री दिग्विजय सिंह : मैं इस सवाल को सदन के सामने इसलिए अपनी तरफ से रख रहा था ताकि लोगों को जानकारी

हो सके बहुत सारे लोग कहते हैं कि इस देश के अन्दर चीजें रहते हुए भी नहीं मिलती हैं इसलिए मैंने कहा है कि सीमेंट का दाम इस देश में बढ़ने की कोई वजह नहीं थी जबकि हमारे देश में सीमेंट का प्रोडक्शन है फिर भी सीमेंट के दाम बढ़े। मेरा कहना यह है कि कुछ ऐसी शक्तियां इस देश में मौजूद हैं जो बाजार में अपने जाल से कीमतों को आगे बढ़ाना चाहती हैं। इसलिए मैं इस संस्था को दोषी मान रहा था। इसलिए मैंने इस सवाल का जिक्र आपके सामने किया। एक बात और मैं कहना चाहूंगा। इस देश के अन्दर खास कर के देश का जो पूर्वी हिस्सा है वहां का संबंध और देश के अन्य बाजारों से संबंध थोड़ा बिगड़ा हुआ संबंध है। वहां हर चीज का दाम थोड़ा ज्यादा दिखता है। चीनी का और खाद्य तेलों का कंट्रोल सिस्टम जरा सरकार को ऐसा निकालना चाहिए ताकि जहां इन चीजों की कमी है वहां यह चीजें जल्दी से जल्दी बाजार में उपस्थिति कराई जा सकें। मैं इसके साथ यह भी कहना चाहूंगा कि कुछ चीजों को इसेंशियल कमोडिटीज मानना चाहिए। अभी चीनी, गेहूं, दाल और चावल आदि को इसेंशियल कमोडिटीज माना जाता है लेकिन जरूरतमंद आम लोगों की जो जरूरतें हैं उनमें चाय, साबुन, बीड़ी, गरीब लोगों के लिए कपड़े धोने और तोड़ी, यह सारी चीजें ऐसी हैं .. **(व्यवधान)**

उपसभाध्यक्ष (डा० वायु कालदाते) : बीड़ी भी ?

श्री दिग्विजय सिंह : बीड़ी भी। पूरा पूर्वी भारत बीड़ी पीता है। केरोसिन तेल तो उस में है। उसमें यह सारी चीजें जो हैं, मैं बीड़ी पर बार बार जोर दे कर कह रहा हूं, वहां बीड़ी आम आदमी के लिए बहुत प्रमुख चीज हो गई है, पूर्वी भारत में खास तौर से, इसलिए ऐसी चीजों को सरकार राशन की दुकानों पर मुहैया करे। इसलिए मैं चाहूंगा, वित्त मंत्री जी, देश के सामने यह समस्या अचानक बाजार ने खड़ी कर दी है, आपकी तमाम प्रतिबद्धता रहते हुए, आपके तमाम अरमानों के रहते हुए, आप इस देश में मंहगाई कम करने के लिए प्रतिबद्ध हैं फिर भी अगर मंहगाई कम नहीं हो सकी तो मैं समझता हूं जो 30 मई की डेट आपने दे रखी है उस के बाद सख्ती से कदम उठाये, सदन पूरी तरह आपके साथ है। इस में कोई दो राय नहीं हैं कि कीमतों का कम किया जाए। कम से कम मैं यह गुजारिश करना चाहूंगा कि कीमतें पुनः उसी स्तर पर आ जायें जहां पर आपने सत्ता संभाली थी तभी जा कर देश की जनता एक बार पुनः मजबूती से इस सरकार का आगे बढ़ाने के लिए अपनी प्रतिबद्धता को दोहरायेगी। धन्यवाद।

[The Vice-Chairman (Prof. Chandresh P. Thakur) in the Chair.]

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI (Maharashtra): Mr. Vice-Chairman, while participating in this debate which was long awaited by all the political parties because of the steep price rise, I am really happy that Mr. Dandavate, though he is under a little jet lag...

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: It has gone.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: How? You are still dozing here...

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: It is not because of jet lag.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: That is because of some of the speeches.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: That's fine. I think this price rise as I see it, is not a seasonal phenomenon now. Since May the priecs started rising and the economy has been really overheated. Money supply, as he has himself stated, has increased and too few things are being chased by a bountiful of money thereby causing the prices rise at a high speed. However, I do not want to comment and use the usual political clitches because it is no use doing that. But I see that the demand and supply management is not carefully planned by this Government. I can understand you have only occupied the seat of power for the last four or five months. But what about your announcements during the election period? You yourself said in

[Shri A. G. Kulkarni]

Sangli that within four months you would bring down the prices. Even recently in Bombay, before you went to Washington, it 4.00 P.M. shows that you will bring them down within four days (*Interruptions*) That I can show.

I can understand this. These are all heroic statements. They want to curry favour and sympathies with the people. I can also appreciate the difficulties and embarrassments: you have a huge deficit financing, huge burdens and whatever you call them, different commercial borrowings as the Prime Minister recently stated. But this was all done in the interest of the people for importing certain essential commodities. But having said this also, I do feel that the demand and supply management was very poor during these last four months. You should have appropriated more money. Very recently, when the Reserve Bank of India announced its new policy. they have further taken .5 per cent of money, thereby immobilising about Rs. 98 crores. I expect more money to be immobilised. Now, Mr. Finance Minister, it is a fight like 'Do or Die'. I do not take it to be a very easy fight. But only heroic statements either by you or by the Prime Minister are not going to solve this problem. We have seen, you and me perhaps of the old generations have seen, how Governments have crashed. Chaudhuri Charan Singh's Government crashed because of sugar and onions. That is the reason why the then Government crashed. So do not take it lightly. The fight is very hard very serious, and it must be fought at the proper place. When I say that structural changes are to be made in the economy and in the social equations of the people, I do carry my own commitment and that I desire this Government should do, because I want to rule for another two or three years till we are ready to take over... (*Interruptions*).

AN HON. MEMBER: Why are you giving them three years?

SHR A. G. KULKARNI: If as a Congressman I am given power tomorrow morning, I will behave like that only So let them go ahead. (*Interruptions*). You just wait. (*Interruptions*).

Mr. Vice-Chairman, I say that such heroic announcements are not very much helpful to you. Whether Mr. Dandavate at this age will like this or not—this is the photo you will see; this is Mr. Dandavate...

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Even at this age I like that... (*Interruptions*).

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Sir, here is the photo and a statement given by Mrs. Dandavate in Bombay. She led a 'Bela Morcha' against her husband...

AN HON. MEMBER: Against the Government.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Against the Finance Minister who happens to be her husband. (*Interruptions*).

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: It is the other way: the husband who happens to be the Finance Minister... (*Interruptions*).

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: What I want to bring to his notice that a housewife—she is also a politician; I do not say that she is only the housewife but she is a very dedicated socialist and a politician and she has led a 'morcha' and she was asked many questions. but I do not want to waste my time on that. Mr. Dandavate, I am very much worried about the militant Mrs. Dandavate denying her over-worked husband a cup of refreshing evening tea! That I am worried about. (*Interruptions*). The over-worked Mr. Dandavate needs a of tea which must be given. Anyway, this is what your own home position is like.

Mr. Vice-Chairman, I am not going to quote all these price rises etc. Everybody knows. By and large, twenty per cent price rise is there in

essential commodities and about 40 per cent in vegetables. We all know about that. Sir, I am more worried about the essential commodities. One of my friends—I think he is from the Janata Dal—mentioned about biris etc. Let us talk in the rural sense. Just now two friends of mine are sitting in the Notice Office. I brought them because a friend of mine told them that I would help. I am talking about the Madhya Pradesh Government. I hope my BJP friends will not take objection. The cooperative organisations were encouraged by the Congress Party when they were in power. A friend of mine was the Chairman of the Procurement Agency. They have done away with it and handed it over to the traders. These chaps have come here. They tell me that there is no tendu leaf. I ask somebody. He says: "Go to Mr. Patel or Mr. Parmar." God knows who he is.

SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI (Madhya Pradesh): Rs. 400 crores is the profit which the society earned. Now it is going to 40 traders.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Don't limit yourself like a hore. Strong action is needed on all fronts. There are 21 essential commodities which have been identified by the Planning Commission and they have to be monitored. Mr. Vice-Chairman, I have read one interview by Mr. Bimal Jalan the Finance Secretary. After the budget, price rise will not be more than 1 per cent or 1½ per cent I was laughing. This man is talking like that. I can see that the economy is so much overheated and money is so much running that this cannot be so. Anyway, strong action is necessary.

Mr. Vice-Chairman, I will give three or four suggestions and I have done. What is now required is solid deterrent action against the hoarders. I ask you Mr. Dandavate to be tough. You and I have been brought up in the same environment and atmosphere. Have you in your life and I in my life ever seen a trader being jailed for this? Very very few. If you can really arrest 100 traders all over India, I will forgo one month's salary to whatever Trust you want. (*Interruptions*) I will forgo one month's salary. One month's salary is a great thing to me. It may not be so to you. I have to face my wife and children. I will give one month's salary if you arrest 100 hoarders. Yesterday, there was a talk on raids. This is my personal opinion. Conduct raids, vindictiveness or whatever it is. Mrs. Indira Gandhi has shown the way. It is the people who know who is vindictive and who is not vindictive. Raids on offenders and raids on hoarders must be conducted. It is a necessity in this country. Pandit Nehru said that if you hang someone on Vijaya Chowk, that will deter much more than all the heroic talk by you and by V. P. Singh. You indulge in heroic talk that you will bring down prices. Please don't do that. I say that the body of the hoarder and his personality has to be hurt. But on your left side you have got Dipen Ghosh and on your right side you have Advaniji. Then how will you get courage to raid these hoarders and hang them? Leave aside hanging. You must raid them and jail them at least for a month. My second suggestion is...

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: Raid for raids.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Yes, raid for raids. I want Mr. Dandavate to do one thing instead of talking of improvement of public distribution system. Mr. Mirdha, a very senior colleague of mine, is here. We two come from rural areas. The sugar bag does not leave that district place. I have asked Mirdhaji himself: Have you ever seen any sugar bags having gone to the villages?

...(व्यवधान) भाई, वहीं बंटवारा होना है...(व्यवधान)...

Has there ever been any arrangement, any direct intervention made in that public distribution system? Whatever you may say, it was Rajiv Gandhi who made during 1986-87 a direct intervention in the public distribution system. I would recommend you that. A direct intervention is necessary. Don't be

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afraid of BJP. We will support you. But please bring the prices down. The point is that the people's agony is more to our heart than the political power that we are aspiring to I said deep structural changes are necessary. Madhuji can give another lecture for three hours on deep structural changes as a Socialist because he has learnt of Socialism under S. M. Joshi and others. But do not give lectures. You make deep structural changes.

Sir, my last point is about sugar. Mirdhaji is luckily here. Through RBI, we have mopped up 0.5 per cent in the public distribution of sugar. Please increase the levy quota by another 5 per cent which will make an immediate impact on the sugar prices.

श्री बीरेन्द्र वर्मा (उत्तर प्रदेश) आप ने घटाया क्यों था ? 65 से 45 कर दिया?

श्री अरविन्द गणेश कुलकर्णी : भाई वर्मा जी, आप बैठो । करना नहीं, देना नहीं, क्या बात कर रहे हो ।

Mr. Dandavate, if you make an announcement today a 5 per cent increase in the levy sugar, tomorrow the prices will go down by another Rs. 50. That is necessary. Such hurting is necessary whether of the sugar co-operatives or that Sarcar Samrat, whoever it might be. They must suffer.

श्री भगवंत सिंह (बिहार) : इन्दू भाई पटेल भाई ।

श्री अरविन्द गणेश कुलकर्णी : इन्दू भाई पटेल भाई वह तो हैं ।

I think, along with it, there is another point. Mirdhaji is also sitting on a file of policy. When there is no sugar, have more sugar factories if people want to put them. And this policy decision taken in the last regime about 25 KMs and 40 KMs is artificial. In Punjab, wheat is grown. Do you want to say wheat flour mills have to be stopped? It is agro-processing. Do it. Whoever wants to produce, let them produce, not the children but the essential commodities. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY (Uttar Pradesh): He is giving this advice to Mr. Madhu Dandavate.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: For me, it is a theoretical advice.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: For you and for me also because I am a person who has crossed that stage 25 years back.

Sir, now I want to make my last point. One of my friends has said about the lobbies in the co-operatives also. Leave aside the trader. The traders themselves are a class which has to be hurt financially and which has to be put in jail. But the co-operative lobbies have also to be shown that they must be disciplined and they must behave properly. My point in making this is that the entire oil muddle is of Gujarat. And you are supporting the Government of Mr. Patel which is protecting the oil hoarders.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: Yes.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: This is a serious point. Mr. Finance Minister, do not take a very rosy view or have a dream that you will be in power perpetually. Nobody can be in power perpetually.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: You have given us only three years.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: I have given you three years. I stand by it. I would like that you should be there. Now, what about this oil muddle? Gujarat had a bumper crop. But the traders of Gujarat had a bumper crop. But the traders of Gujarat have a vice-like grip on the Government of Gujarat. They cannot move this side or that side.

SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL: The supply department is controlled

by the B.J.B., not by the Chief Minister.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: Both.

SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL: The supply Department in Gujarat ns handled by the B.J.P.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: You are a Gujarati. You know better. I am a Maharashtrian. I know only about sugar.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY (Pondicherry): You know only sugar lobby.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Sir, thank you for giving me this much time. The Minister may consider these three-four things I mentioned. The example, beedi.. You may think that it is a small thing. But this will bring down your image like anything. Tendu leaves are not available at a cheap price. Today, the common man who smokes the beedi blames you and V. P. Singh.

Therefore, for heaven's sake, have a large spectrum in which you can take action. Then only, all your talk will have some sense. Thank you.

खाद्य और नागरिक पूर्ति मंत्री (श्री नाथूराम मिर्धा) : महोदय, दो मिनिट मुझे देंगे । सदस्यों की जानकारी के लिये मुझे कुछ कहना है ।

कुलकर्णी जी, हमारे बहुत पुराने जाने-माने राजनीतिज्ञ हैं । उन्होंने कुछ दो-तीन जरूरी बातें कहीं हैं एक बात कही कि ट्रेडर्स के ऊपर, होर्डस के ऊपर रहम नहीं करना चाहिये । आपकी राय में यह सरकार सेंट-परसेंट सहमत है । मैं आपको फैक्टस देना चाहता हूं । पिछले चार महीनों में करीब 5 हजार रेड्स किये । . . (व्यवधान) . . . 1989–90 में 6 हजार आदमी जेल गये । मैं आप को फैक्टस एंड फिगर्स दे रहा हूं । मैं गलत बात नहीं करूंगा । आप ने 5 हजार की बात कही, मैंने 6 हजार । . . . (व्यवधान) . . इसलिये आपने चार-पांच का कहा, मैंने 6 हजार कहा ।

एक माननीय सदस्य : फिर भी दाम बढ़ गये ?

श्री नाथूराम मिर्धा : दाम तो बढ़ते रहे । दाम बढ़ने की मेरी राय में कुछ और बात है । आप सुन लीजिये । दाम बढ़ने की बात कौन कर रहे हैं और क्या कर रहे हैं, मुझे मालूम है । मैं आपसे दूसरा फैक्ट यह कहना चाहूंगा कि आप ने चीनी के प्रोडक्सन के बारे में कुछ कहा कि छोड़ दो, करने दो पैदा, खुली कर दो । आज हमारे देश के अन्दर साढ़े चार सौ चीनी मिलें हैं । आज तक देश का मैक्सीमम प्रोडक्सन 91 लाख टन हुआ है । पिछले साल 87 लाख था । इस साल आप का प्रोडक्सन 107–108 लाख टन होने जा रहा है । सिर्फ दो महीने लेट क्रशिंग और डेढ़ महीना अर्ली क्रशिंग अगले साल । मेरे ख्याल से यह दुनिया का रिकार्ड प्रोडक्सन है यह आज तक दुनिया में किसी ने पैदा नहीं की जो हिन्दुस्तान इस साल करेगा । इसलिये चीनी की नीति के बारे में गहराई से मैं कभी और बात करूंगा, डिस्टर्बेंस रखना, नहीं रखना, क्या करना ? हमें किसान के गन्ने को पीसना, मैक्सीमम गन्ना बढ़ाना है, चीनी बढ़ानी है । अगले साल एक्सपोर्ट की पोजीशन में हम आ जायेंगे ।

I will be exporting the largest quantity of sugar in the world.

इसलिये चीनी के बारे में कभी बैठकर अलग से बात की जा सकती है ।

I will not take much time of the House.

जहां तक तेलों का सवाल है, देश आज भी डेफिसिएंट है । हम को चाहिये कि 57–58 लाख टन और हमारे पास है करीब 47–48 लाख टन । इस कारण कमी है । जब डिमांड और सप्लाय में कमी होती है तो कई प्रकार की परेशानियां खड़ी होती है । अभी आपने गुजरात की बात कही, मैं . .

I am very much aware of it. I agree that Gujarat does not exist for

[Shri Nathu Ram Mirdha]

itself alone It exists for the whole country. I am taking steps. Things will be done all right. The prices of oil and vanaspati have come down, slid down.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: How much?

SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA: Re. 1 to Rs 2.50.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: This is not a satisfaction for me.

SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA: It cannot be an individual satisfaction. I do not say that these things will satisfy everybody. But there is a declining trend.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: If the Government cannot give satisfaction, then what are you for?

SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA: In sugar, the prices have come down?

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: How much?

SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA: Kindly let me say what I want to say. I don't want to argue here. They can come to my room and I will tell them. I am not prepared to argue about prices of individual items.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: He is glorifying his own failure and he is finding satisfaction in it.

SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA: Let him say what he wants to say. I am not bothered about anything. I am worried about my own conscience.

Our country is deficient in pulses and oilseeds. We are trying to increase the production and also trying to bring the prices down. That is what I will like to say. This Government is working for it every minute and all the Departments are working for it.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Why were they sleeping for the last four months?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. CHANDRESH P. THAKUR): Mr. Dipen Ghosh.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: Sir, It is not correct that the oilseeds prices are coming down. It is not correct. I have given the figures. Oilseeds prices have gone up 30 per cent and cotton seed prices by 30 percent.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. CHANDRESH P. THAKUR): The Finance Minister will reply to that. Mr. Dipen Ghosh.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I wonder whether the prices are not of this world. Otherwise, why should they not come down, at least in India? I thought that Prof. Madhu Dandavate had taken over charge of the Ministry of Finance and Newton's law of gravity will operate. Previously he used to teach Physics. At least when a Professor of Physics had taken over charge of Finance, I thought that Newton's law of gravity will operate. But unfortunately, during the period of Professor of Physics as Finance Minister, Newton's law of gravity did not operate in this particular case. During the last ten years...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. CHANDRESH P. THAKUR): It was upside down.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: During the last ten years, the prices in India did never come down. I am not speaking of March, April or May. During the last ten years, though you were not the Professor of Physics you taught economcs, you knew that it never came down.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: It is the law of growth, as they call it.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: I am coming to that growth also. It is good that you have pointed it out. I am not

quoting the prices because the prices which I will be quoting will be from the documents. Whether it is Mr. Jagesh Desai or Mr. Kulkarni or myself, those documents are prepared by the Ministry of Finance of the Government of India. All the documents are there in the Library. The source is the same. It is the Government of India. So, I am not quoting that. But Mr. Kulkarni has pointed out...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. CHANDRESH P. THAKUR): You have another source. Mrs. Ghosh:

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: It is a very big thing in our country and it is a peculiar thing in our country alone. When GDP rises, prices also rise. The trend in other countries is that with the rise in GDP, prices trend to come down whereas in our country it is a peculiar feature that with the GDP rising, there is a rise in prices also. If we go by statistics in that respect, we will see that the GNP which was 3.3 per cent in the 50's, rose to 4.2 per cent in the 80's. But if you go by the price risen the 50's, it was 2.1 per cent in a year in the 50's but in the 60's it trebled to 6.3 per cent and in the 80's it went up to 9.5 per cent. So, this is about eight times what it was in the 60's. In other words, the value of the rupee has come down. Our Kulkarniji wanted to give away one month's salary, some Rs. 5,500 or so. But, what about the cost of the rupee today? The value of the rupee is only one-eighth of what it used to be. If there is an eight-fold rise, it means the value of the rupee today is only around 12 paise. And we want to reach the 21st century at a very high speed with hightech airplanes and all that and, at this rate, when we will be reaching the 21st century the value of the rupee wll come down to six paise.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: It will be cheaper travel! ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: At this rate, in half a century the value of the rupee will go down to six paise. I do not know whether the Professor of Physics will be in a position to have Newton's low of gravity operate in this field. It is really a very tough job. So, we must address ourselves to this particular theme not by saying that this thing has risen or that thing has risen but we must understand that this s a phenomenon which we are passing through in our economy and this phenomenon is not confined to the current time alone. If we consider the rise in prices in terms of percentage, in one year it might have gone down but the next year it has risen also, during the present Government or during the previous Government, in one year it went down but the next year it went up.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: In no year.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: I can quote the figures. Every figure I have got, but I am not going to waste my time quoting them.

Actually, the Government must address itself to this as to what has to be done in this situation, how to tackle the situation because inflation in our country, as my colleague, Mr. Yashwant Sinha, was saying, is policy-induced. It is completely policy-induced and the price rise also is policy-induced. Everybody has agreed, even Mr. Chavan will hear me out and agree, that the Reserve Bank and other economic experts have agreed that is a policy-induced inflation. So we have to see whether we should adopt a policy which would induce a rise in prices, which would induce an acceleration in the inflation. Sometimes it may so happen that we may have to adopt such policies even with the fear that it might result in a price rise.

But we are to consider the people. There are people who do not get salary, who do not get wage or pay liked to the index, most people. A very handful are getting their wages or salaries linked to the index. They have got a sort of index to get compensation. The

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other day the oil sector officers had gone on strike to ensure 100 per cent neutralisation of the rise in the prices though they were getting Rs. 5,000, Rs. 7,000 or Rs. 8,000 per month. The Fourth Pay Commission had recommended full neurtlisation up to Rs. 3,500. But what about the people, other people in the unorganised sector, the villagers whose earning is not linked to the index? So, naturally we are to see how to protect the interest of those people, the majority.

In economic terms if we discuss the issue, the money supply, this thing or that thing, the Reserve Bank or the Economic Survey every year suggests that there must be control in liquidity, there must be control on deficit financing. But every year whatever they may suggest in their economic position or Economic Survey or in their reviews, despite those suggestions, the prices continue to rise. So, on this aspect — Mirdhaji is here — I want to know this specifically. Farmers have to be protected. Farmers' interests have to be protected, whether they are cane growers or they ar wheat growers or they are jute growers or they are paddy growers. Prof. Dandavate, in his Budget Speech, stated how this support price would be determined, that the labour cost, the cost of labour of the farmer himself or the family members of that farmer has to be taken as input for determining minimum support price. All right. These are all good things. We are supporting it, we are demanding it. This support price has to be augmented, has to be raised. But at whose cost? That has to be decided. Here lies the policy, here comes the question of policy. We must protect the interests of the farmers. We must give a support price. For the protection of the farmers' rights, interests we must devise better methods to decide the remunerative prices for the farmers. But at whose cost? Should we collect that money from the consumers in the public distribution system? That is the policy. Here comes the policy. The concept of giving a better support price to the farmers comes from the necessity of protecting the farmers from the mahajans or the baniyas, those who buy them at lower prices from the farmers and sell them in the market to the consumers at a higher price. But the Government must protect the farmers. At the same time the Government must protect the common consumers, the common people who are the subscribers to the public distribution system. For wheat the support price has been increased, very good. But, at the same time, the issue price has also been increased. What does it mean? Is it anything other than the administered price? Is it anything else? Let me know. I am neither an economist nor a physicist. The question is it is not only that strengthening and augmenting the public distribution system alone can help you to reduce the prices and help you to protect the interests of the common consumers. There the Government itself is increasing the prices only to match up the cost of higher support prices to the farmers. The subsidies are given on food or fertiliser or other things. But subsidies are given to the exporters also for promoting exports. Prof. Dandavate is here. He may let us know how much money is paid on account of subsidy to the exporters and how much money those exporters, who get this amount as incentive, earn through their increase in exports? Prof. Dandavate will agree with me that most of the industrialists or the big organisations are monopolists and whatever they earn as foreign exchange, they consume much more of it. Only small traders in jewellery, handicrafts and handloom are the largest exporters in our country nowadays from value point of view.

Here is the question of policy. The sugarcane support prices have been increased, but was it necessary to increase them so much? Who will ask this question? I don't know. Kul-

karni Ji or Virendra Verma Ji who are here may ask this question. Even to give a remunerative price to the cane-growers you increase the prices and the sugar prices also went up. That is why I want to emphasise on this particular aspect. Other speakers have spoken about containing of the deficit financing, management of the demand-supply, of money supply or the liquidity position etc., but I want to specifically know from the Government what specific steps this Government wants to take to strengthen and augment the public distribution system and to ensure supply of 21 essential commodities or 14 essential commodities. He has said 21 essential commodities are to be supplied at subsidised rates through the public distribution system. On this particular question I want the reaction of the Government. Unless the public distribution system is augmented and expanded and steps taken to distribute 21 essential commodities at subsidised rates, we cannot protect the interests of the common poor people of our country from the onslaughts of the increasing prices or for that matter inflation. The Finance Bill is yet to come and obviously the Finance Minister would not oblige us to disclose anything and I do not also expect him to oblige us to disclose anything until he presents are Finance Bill. But I would hope that the Finance Minister would agree with me that the rise in the price of diesel —I don't say about petrol—the hike in railway freight—will have a cascading effect. It may not hit a particular commodity but the mode of transport is involved. If the cost of transport is increased which carries goods and persons there is an effect on commodities' prices. So I would appeal to the Finance Minister to withdraw the hike on high speed diesel.

Another aspect which I would like to point out is that the Finance Minister has proposed higher level of excise duty on motor cars and airconditioners. People think that the rich people use motor cars, rich people use air-conditioners. So common people have got nothing to do with it. But who are the buyers of motor cars and air-conditioners in our country? It is the Government. The Government is the largest buyer of the motor cars and airconditioners. Two-thirds of the passenger cars produced in India are bought by the Government and so is the condition about airconditioners also. Naturally whenever the people talk of reducing the Government expenditure or controlling the Government expenditure, there is only one whipping boy and that whipping boy is the employees reduce the number of employees, reduce their perks, reduce their DAS, reduce their allowances. They don't talk about other Government expenditure. If one Minister goes by car, how many cars accompany his car?

श्री अरविन्द गणेश कुलकर्णी : सेक्योरिटी की बात बोलिये । कहां की सक्योरिटी है ?

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: I am taking up that issue. For one Minister there are three cars because two cars are full of security men. If the people go hungry, if the people are oppressed and suppressed by the rise in prices...

श्री नाथूराम मिर्धा : सब मिनिस्टरों के पास ऐसा नहीं है । मेरे पास एक ही गाड़ी है । उसी में मैं बैठता हूं और उसी में सेक्योरिटी वाला बैठता है । अगर सेक्योरिटी वाला नहीं है तो नहीं है । बड़े लोगों को सेक्योरिटी की आवश्यकता है, छोटे लोगों को आवश्यकता नहीं है ।

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: The Prime Minister, Mr. V. P. Singh has rightly issued orders that whenever he goes abroad, all the Ministers and all the officers should not go to the airport to see him off or receive him. That was an instance by which the consumption of petrol and cars would be reduced. I am citing only one exaple. So in respect of curtailment of

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Government expenditure, we should not bring before us only the whipping boy, the employees. The wasteful expenditure has to be cut and the Finance Minister will have to resort to hard options to identify the areas where the wasteful expenditure is being indulged in and that has to be cut. Even our Members of Parliament are not immune from that. Members of Parliament are insisting on going round the world to see and ensure whether Hindi is being properly used in our foreign mission offices or not.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. CHANDRESH P. THAKUR): What has Hindi to do with price rise?

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: What I am trying to say is that even Members of Parliament are not immune from indulging in wasteful expenditure. I am only citing an example and I hope the Government will take care of this. Thank you.

SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR (Bihar): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I rise to make a few observations on the Short Duration Discussion on the steep rise in the prices of essential commodities—a subject on which deep concern has been shown by the hon. Members of the House on either side. May I sincerely urge that we should objectively examine this vital national issue and should not view it from political angles since it affects the common man at large throughout the country? Everybody is agreed that there has been steep rise in the prices of most of the essential commodities during the last couple of months particularly after the Budget of 1990. This has been accepted now by the hon. Finance Minister that there has been effect of that on the price rise. Figures have been given here by my friends and we all agree that there has been definitely positive rise from 15 per cent to 45 per cent in different aspects in different commodities like wheat from Rs. 214 per kg. to Rs. 244 per kg., sugar from Rs. 8.15 per k.g. to Rs. 10 per kg., dal arhar, from Rs. 10 per k.g. to Rs. 13 per kg., mustard oil, from Rs. 22 per kg. to Rs. 27 per kg., vanaspati oil, from Rs. 27 per k.g. to Rs. 31 per k.g., lose tea, from Rs. 55 per k.g. to Rs. 65 per k.g., cement from Rs. 62 per bag to Rs. 105 per bag. Now the question is not only of one-time rise. It is not a question of just rise in one price of few commodities once. There seems to be and that is what needs to be carefully examined a general increase in the price rise, inflationary pressures in the general economy of the country and this is what needs to be contained. You have been good enough to say that you were trying to reduce the Budgetary deficit by having additional levies but that has adversely affected the price of essential commodities as my friends, Mr. Gurudas Das Gupta, Mr. Dipen Ghosh and other friends have mentioned. There has been cascading effect of Budget proposals on account of more expensive fuel, transport, freight, postage, communications, iron and steel, aluminium, DPT and cost of production. Consequently, prices have gone up. Not only the index of consumer prices but also the index of wholesale prices has gone up. Last year, on 14th April, 1989, it was 163.5. This year it has been 172.2. Some economists, some papers, quoted it as 190. When this is the situation, the Government must think in terms of adopting some longterm policies because price-rise variations indicate the general economic conditions of the country. The price movement indicates the nature of the control and regulatory measures that the Government has adopted or is likely to adopt. There is a reflection on that also. In a planned and mixed economy like ours, price-control is extremely significant for the successful implementation of plans. Therefore, I would like to make a few suggestions for the consideration of the hon. Finance Minister who is a great socialist, who is a well-meaning per-

son, who is very keen and concerned about the price-rise and the hardships of the common man but has been helplessly seeing them. Possibly, in spite of his best efforts, price-rise has not been effectively controlled.

There are two major factors In this direction, reduction of monetary increase in Government expenditure is important. For lack of time, I would only mention points and not go into details. The second thing is to control deficit-financing, or rather I would say further control of deficit-financing, and effective regulation of increase in monentary supply. There is a role of the black money. This is very important and is linked up with inflation and price-rise. Positive steps to curb the existence and pernicious role of black money have to be taken by the Government. The other major aspect is the cost-push factors and in this direction, there is need to ensure adequate and timely supply of goods and services to correspond with every increase in demand. Temporary release of some supplies from here and there will not do. Another aspect is fluctuations in output and supply.

Planned efforts for increasing, the production of foodgrains and other essential goods have to be taken. Timely supply of goods to the very interior parts of the country, remote parts of the country, as well as to the cities, of course, should be done effectively.

Then comes the taxation policy. We have seen the effect of indirect taxes. Therefore, as Mr. Das Gupta said, it is essential that you review, without making it a prestige issue, some of the policies you have adopted—either before the Budget or in the Budget or after—to ensure that you are really able to retard the rate of price-rise which we have got. Next one is the public sector product pricing which is also important. Cost-push factor consists mainly of rise in wages, profit margins and others. Cost-push factor, as I was mentioning, is that when there is a rise in prices, profit margins etc., I would like to know whether effective steps would be taken to control cost, increase productivity, efficiency and profitability and not profiteering in the public as well as private sectors. Will the hon. Minister ensure that adequate supply of goods and services will be made available to the common people?

The third major aspect is the demand management. Fiscal measures are essential; particularly anti-inflationary measures through some ordinances, if necessary, should be taken as it has been done in the past in the '70s and in the '80s. It should be examined whether and to what extent, and in what manner these inflationary pressures can be controlled through fiscal measures.

Then the question is about monetary measures about which my esteemed friend Mr. Jagesh Desai spoke. The Government through RBI should immediately launch measures for extensive use of the general and selective credit control measures to ensure that we are able to supply money in the market to the extent it is needed and curb it also to the extent it is essential; otherwise it will not be possible to control inflation as it appears to be all around now.

The fourth major aspect is the supply management. Fixing of prices is one of them. Will the hon. Minister consider fixing the prices in some cases of essential goods where these are not fixed and ensure that goods are made available at the fixed prices? Secondly the system of dual prices, as we have now, is not working effectively. Adequate steps will have to be taken so that prices, particularly in items like sugar and others, are able to work. And increase in supply of foodgrains and other essential goods is the most important part, but unless there is an adequate supply of goods, it will not be possible to contain inflation and black-marketing as it is going on today.

[Shri Rameshwar Thakur]

Sir, I would like to enquire from the hon. Minister a few things. What concrete steps and time-bound programmes the Government is going to take to control the steep rise in the prices of essential commodities and arrest the all-round inflationary pressures in the economy? I would like to know whether the Government is prepared to take a hard decision to ensure that the increasing hardship of the common man is mitigated at the earliest. And thirdly, I would like to know whether the Government would further strengthen the public sector undertakings with which we have the commitment of having the highest priority and taking them to the commanding heights of the economy. I would also like to know whether the Government would further strengthen the public distribution system in all respects, in all areas to the country so that we should not succumb to the pressures of private traders and hoarders. The next thing I would like to know from the Government is whether it would take positive steps to ensure that the planning process which is very important—particularly of the Eighth Plan—would not be adversely affected due to uncontrolled inflation. That is very important, Sir. I would like to give an example and close.

5.00 P.M.

We are all aware that during the First Plan we were able to control the prices and one of the objectives of the First Five Year Plan was to combat inflation and we had succeeded in that. The Price Index is there and everybody knows that during the period from the Second to the Fifth Plan, we had mixed experience. Sometimes we succeeded and sometimes we had problems. But, by and large, in the Sixth and Seventh Plan periods we were able to control inflation and broadly, we had one-digit inflation rate. But, in between, we had some difficulty.

I do not want to take the time of the House by saying anything political here. But as we all know, during the Janata regime, during 1977-78 and 1978-79, it was possible to a large extent to control the prices. But what happened later? After the 1979 Budget, after Mr. Charan Singh presented the Budget, the prices went up and went up in a big way. I would like to quote from a very important book which says that the prices started rising almost the day atfer the Budget was presented in Parliament in 1979. In 1979, the Wholesale Price Index figure stood at 185 whereas, just in January 1980, it had risen to 224. The caretaker Government which came to power in the second half of 1979, was completely powerless to stop the price-rise. I would say that the Government should not feel helpless, but it should take positive steps. If the Government has the necessary will, it should be possible to ensure that the steep price-rise, particularly in essential commodities, and inflation in general, are controlled. I am not talking politically, but I would like to quote one eminent economist, Mr. Babatosh Dutta. It is from an important economic book and it is not a political document, and it is "The Indian Economy". The heading of the article is "Price Policy and Economic Growth". Now, what has that very eminent economist said? I would like to quote him here:

> "The origin of inflation is often to be found in the panicky nervousness of unstable governments in politically unsettled communities. Given political stability, there is no reason why India should not be able to carry out her future plans without generating serious inflationary pressures on the price level."

This is what Mr. Babatosh Dutta has said. I hope, Mr. Finance Minister, that with you in the saddle of the Finance Ministry, with your wisdom and with your socialistic background, the Government should be able to take positive steps and measures to ensure that the common man is no longer asked to suffer any further. I

hope that you would be able to control the prices. This is a national task and it is meant for the common man of the country and it is meant for all of us. This is the task before the nation now and we must come forward to meet the challenge and prove equal to the task. Otherwise, we will be failing and the Eighth Plan will be in disarray and will be in difficulties. Saying this and that will not help at all. Hard and positive measures and concrete decisions are required to be taken so that we are able to meet the challenge before us. Thank you very much, Sir.

श्री लक्खीराम अग्रवाल (मध्य प्रदेश) : उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, यह निश्चित है कि आज करोड़ों लोगों के लिये बढ़ती हुई कीमतें एक समस्या है। इस देश में पिछले महीनों में एक बहुत बड़ा परिवर्तन आया और उस परिवर्तन के द्वारा इस देश में नयी सरकार की स्थापना हुई।

स्वाभाविक था लोगों की आकांक्षायें कि नई सरकार न केवल महंगाई को कीमतों को बढ़ने से रोकेगी, बल्कि कुछ ऐसा प्रबंध करेगी कि जो चुनाव से पूर्व बड़े लोगों से पिछली सरकार ने सांठगांठ करके प्राइसेज बढ़ाये थे, कीमत बढ़ाई थीं, उनको कम करेगी।

नई सरकार आने के बाद इस बात में कोई शक नहीं है कि न केवल कीमतें कुछ स्थिर हुई, बल्कि बहुत सी जरूरी वस्तुओं के दाम गिरे, लेकिन दुर्भाग्य से बीच में, जो हमारा यह नया बजट आया, उसके कारण चाहे जो भी वित्त मंत्री जी दें, घाटा कम करने का इत्यादि, उसने पुरानी परिपाटी कायम रखते हुये जो बहुत सी चीजों के दाम बढ़ाये, डीजल, पेट्रोल, माल भाड़ा या अन्य सरकारी उपक्रमों से लोहे के दाम बढ़ाये, उससे कीमतें बढ़ीं।

इस बात में कोई दो मत नहीं है कि कीमतें इतनी नहीं बढ़नी चाहिये थीं, क्योंकि सरकार ने इतनी वृद्धि नहीं की थी, लेकिन फिर भी सरकार कीमतों के प्रति जितनी सचेत रहनी चाहिये बजट के बाद, जितनी दृढ़ता से रहनी चाहिये उतनी दृढ़ता से नहीं रह सकी और इसके कारण इस देश के मुनाफाखोरों ने जिनकी कि बड़े-बड़े लोगों से सांठगांठ रहती है, कृत्रिम अभाव करके बहुत सी वस्तुओं के दाम बढ़ाये। कोई कारण नहीं था।

यह बात निश्चित है कि जब पेट्रोल, डीजल, माल भाड़ा या रेल माल भाड़ा बढ़ता है, तो उसका असर अन्य उपभोक्ता वस्तुओं पर भी पड़ता है। ढुलाई के रूप में मैं तो लोहे के बारे में कहना चाहूंगा कि अगर लोहे के भी मूल्य बढ़ते है, उसके कारण वाहन के भी मूल्य बढ़ते है और वाहन के मूल्य बढ़ने के कारण भी भाड़ा बढ़ता है। यह सारे कारण जुड़ करके महंगाई का निर्माण करते हैं, कीमतें बढ़नी शुरू होती है। इसको सरकार को बचना चाहिये था।

आखिर डीजल और पेट्रोल पर सरकार कितना मूल्य बढ़ायेगी ? वहां तक उसको ले जायेगी, यह समझ में नहीं आता। आज पेट्रोल ग्यारह रुपये लिटर हो गया है। इन सारी चीजों का असर उपभोक्ता पर पड़ा और कृत्रिम अभाव लोगों ने पैदा किया।

वास्तविकता यह है कि महंगाई के बारे में पिछली सरकार से विरासत में बढ़ती हुई कीमतों के बारे में नीति-विहीनता तो मिली, लेकिन हमारी यह नई सरकार भी उस नीति-विहीनता से मुक्त नहीं हो पाई है।

सब चीजों के बारे में, सब समस्याओं के बारे में नीति बनती है, लेकिन बढ़ती हुई कीमतों के बारे में कोई नीति नहीं बन पाती, चाहे वह अल्पकालीन हो, चाहे दीर्घकालीन हो। मैं तो यह कहूंगा कि अगर महंगाई, बढ़ती हुई कीमतों के बारे में जरूरी वस्तुओं के बारे में अगर कोई एक अल्पकालीन और दीर्घकालीन नीति

[श्री लक्खी राम अग्रवाल]

सरकार करती है, तो मैं समझता हूं कि उसे खड़े हो कर के मंहगाई से छुटकारा मिल जायेगा।

मंहगाई, बढ़ती हुई कीमतें, यह एक ऐसा दुश्चक्र चला हुआ है जो अनेक वर्षों से इस देश में निरंतर बढ़ता जा रहा है। उसके भिन्न-भिन्न कारण हैं, वह अलग बात है।

मैं सरकार से चाहूंगा कि अगर वह जो जरूरी वस्तुएं हैं, आवश्यक चीजें हैं, यदि उनका प्रोडक्शन थोड़ा कुछ बाधित कर रहे, लेकिन वह ऐसा कुछ घोषित कर सके कि जिससे उपभोक्ता जरूरी चीजों के दाम हमें कंट्रोल नहीं करने देंगे, तो मैं समझता हूं कि इससे उपभोक्ता भी सचेत होगा। इससे ज्यादा दाम बढ़ाने से उपभोक्ता में भी जागरण आएगा और उससे शायद कुछ समस्या का हल हो सकता है।

मैं वित्त मंत्री जी से चाहूंगा कि इस संबंध में और कोई उच्च मौलिक मूल्यों को, कि इससे ज्यादा इन जरूरी चीजों की प्राइस को नहीं बढ़ने देंगे, अगर वह निर्धारित करें, तो मैं समझता हूं कि शायद समस्या का कुछ समाधान हो सकेगा।

दुःख इस बात का है कि हमारे प्रधान मंत्री की घोषणाओं के बाद भी मूल्यों में कोई कमी नहीं हुई है। मैं यह कहना चाहूंगा कि घोषणाओं से मूल्य कम नहीं होंगे। हो सकता है प्रधान मंत्री की घोषणाओं से थोड़े समय में मूल्य कम आ जायें। एक बार शायद कुछ चीजों के मूल्य कम हो जायें, लेकिन जब तक हमारी मूल्य वृद्धि को रोकने के लिए कोई ठोस, प्रभावशाली और दीर्घकालीन नीति नहीं बनाई जाएगी तब तक इस समस्या पर काबू नहीं पाया जा सकेगा। उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, पिछली दफे अभी चर्चा में बीड़ी का उल्लेख हुआ। एक माननीय सदस्य ने कहा कि बीड़ी को आवश्यक वस्तुओं में रखना चाहिए। आवश्यक वस्तुओं में रखना चाहिए या नहीं रखना चाहिए इसमें तो मैं नहीं जाना चाहता, लेकिन मैं इस ओर सदन का ध्यान दिलाना चाहता हूं कि इस देश में आम गरीब आदमी बीड़ी को पीता है। मेरी अपनी जानकारी के अनुसार इस देश की 8 करोड़ व्यक्ति बीड़ी पीता है।.. (व्यवधान)

एक माननीय सदस्य : मिनिस्टर लोग नहीं पीते हैं।

श्री लक्खीराम अग्रवाल : मिनिस्टर, बड़े लोग और मिनिस्टर लोग ये सब सिगरेट पीते होंगे, बीड़ी नहीं पीते। बीड़ी इस देश की आम गरीब जनता पीती है और वह बीड़ी का मूल्य अभी मेरे एक साथी वरिष्ठ माननीय सदस्य कुलकर्णी जी ने मध्य प्रदेश सरकार का नाम लिया तेंदू पत्ता के बारे में बात की, उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं आपको बताऊं कि यह बीड़ी के दाम पिछली कांग्रेस सरकार की गलत नीति के कारण एक रुपये बंडल जो बीड़ी बिकती थी उसके एक रुपया पचहत्तर पैसा, दो रुपया यानी सौ प्रतिशत दाम उनकी गलत नीतियों के कारण बढ़े। माननीय सदस्य को शायद पत्ता नीति के बारे में पूरी जानकारी नहीं है। उन्होंने कहा कि सोसायटियों के जरिए 300-400 करोड़ रुपये कमाये गए। वास्तव में यह, आंकड़े भ्रम पैदा करने के लिए दिखाए गए हैं। पिछली मध्य प्रदेश सरकार ने तेंदु पत्ता की जो नीति बनाई कांग्रेस सरकार ने हजारों कर्मचारियों को, अफसरों को, कलैक्टर से ले करके पटवारी तक, सब एक ही काम था सारा प्रशासन ठप्प करके यह तेंदु पत्ता का काम करें और उसके फलस्वरूप जो अन्य विभागों के कर्मचारी थे उन्होंने जो सारा काम किया उनके भत्ते उनके डिपार्टमेंट में चले गए और मुनाफा को गलत ढंग से दिखाया गया। लेकिन अगर कुछ मुनाफा उसमें हुआ भी है, उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, तो मैं यह पूछना चाहता हूं कि वह किसके मूल्य पर, वह किसकी कीमत पर, वह किसकी जेब पर गया? कोई भी चीज आप सो पैसा करके और उसके मनमाने दाम बढ़ा कर उसके दाम दुगुने कर दें, एक रुपया बंडल का दो रुपया बंडल बीड़ी हो गया। दस लाख

श्रमिक उस नीति के कारण जो बीड़ी बनाने वाले बेकार हो गए, छोटे कारखाने बंद हो गए। उस समय तेंदु पत्ता 40 रुपये हो गया, उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, तेंदु पत्ता जो किंग में लाता था और वह 40 रुपये किलो और जो तंबाकू उसमें भरा जाता है वह 17 रुपये किलो। इस प्रकार की गलत नीति बना कर और घोषणा कर और झूठा मुनाफा दिखा करके ऐसी गलत नीति बनाई जिसके कारण गरीब का दाम तो प्रतिशत बढ़े और भारतीय जनता पार्टी की जो सरकार है वह इस चीज को बदलना चाहती है। मैं अपने वरिष्ठ सदस्य माननीय कुलकर्णी जी से कहूंगा कि अगर वह तेंदु पत्ता नीति के बारे में महाराष्ट्र सरकार को सलाह दें और ज्यादा अच्छा होगा। उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं यह कहना चाहता हूं। कि वास्तव में यह महंगाई जो इस देश की है यह बहुत चरमसीमा पर है हम जब गांवों में जाते हैं, हम जिस इलाके से आए हैं वह एक गरीब और आदिवासी इलाका है, वहां अन्य चीजों के दाम, मैं एक मिनट लूंगा उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, पानी गांवों में हमारे यहां दाल, तेल यह तो महंगाई के कारण उपभोग में छूट गए हैं, हमारे यहां तो खाली चावल नमक के साथ खाते हैं, बगैर सब्जी, बगैर दाल के और जब हम गांव में जाते हैं तो लोग पूछते हैं कि यह क्या हो गया और सारी चीजों को जाने दीजिए, यह नमक भी महंगा हो गया, यह नमक भी सस्ता करना जरूरी है। इसलिए उप सभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं माननीय वित्त मंत्री जी से प्रार्थना करूंगा कि यह महंगाई, मूल्य वृद्धि रोकने के लिए जो कि आज यह बहुत बड़ी समस्या है और मूल्य वृद्धि रोकने के लिए अल्पकालीन, दीर्घकालीन नीति अपनाई जानी चाहिए।

श्री अजीत जोगी : महोदय, मैं केवल एक मिनिट लूंगा। माननीय सदस्य ने तेंदु पत्ता नीति और बीड़ी के संबंध में कुछ कहा है। मैं मध्य प्रदेश में उस समिति का अध्यक्ष था... **(व्यवधान)** मैं उसके बारे में स्पष्टीकरण देना चाहता हूं। केवल एक वाक्य में अपनी बात कहना चाहूंगा।

श्री लक्ष्मीराम अग्रवाल : महोदय, तेंदु पत्ता नीति पर बहस करना हो तो बात अलग है।

श्री अजीत जोगी : कांग्रेस के शासन में, उस नीति के तहत हम जो तेंदु पत्ता व्यापार के माध्यम से बिचौलिए जो चार सौ करोड़ रुपया साल में कमाते थे, उन बिचौलियों को हटाकर जो जेठ और मई की गर्मी में पत्ता तोड़ते हैं, जो एक करोड़ आदिवासी पत्ता तोड़ते हैं, उनके हित में वह चार सौ करोड़ रुपए का मुनाफा उनकी सोसायटियों को, उन को व्यक्तिगत रूप से दिलाया है। यह नीति उन गरीबों के हित में थी। नीति उन व्यापारियों के प्रतिकूल थी जो यह पैसा कमाते थे और अब जो सरकार आई है उसने फिर से इन बिचौलियों को... **(व्यवधान)**...

उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो० चन्द्रेश पी० ठाकुर): श्री संतोष बागड़ोदिया

(व्यवधान)

श्री अजीत जोगी : यह नहीं कह सकते हैं। माननीय सदस्य नए हैं।...

(व्यवधान)...

उप सभाध्यक्ष (प्रो० चन्द्रेश पी० ठाकुर) : यह टाटेला इरलेवेंट बात है। इस की चर्चा अब खत्म कीजिए। मिस्टर बागड़ोदिया आप बोलिए।

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA (Rajasthan): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, it is a very serious matter because the National Front Government, in their manifesto, mentioned that they would reduce the prices. This was one of the strongest points in their manifesto. The first thing that this Government did was to take some steps either through the Budget or through other policies from November-December itself and thereby the prices in the country for every item started going up. This is how they have taken care of their promises to the poor people of the country. When I got up in the morning, I tried to say what were the prices of different items. Sir,

[Shri Santosh Bagrodia]

even this morning, the only thing I saw was: Wheat, Grams go up; Sugar Flares: Oil Spurts. This is the kind of news we get everyday in the morning. I am not talking about killings. I am not talking about communal things. Everything is going wrong. Even about prices, this is what is published in the papers and this is what we are experiencing.

I just want to give a few statistics for the information of my colleagues here. The persistent rise in prices since the budget continues. With the wholesale price index base, 1981-82, being 100, the prices are going up by .6 per cent to a new peak of 172.8 in the week ended April 14 from 171.6 in the previous week. This is how the price index has gone up in one week.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. CHANDRESH P. THAKUR): You have to be very brief, Mr. Bagrodia. Please cooperate.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Give me a few minutes. Let me start. I have not even started.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. CHANDRESH P. THAKUR): You have started. You are half way through. I take it like that.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Give me ten minutes. All right.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. CHANDRESH P. THAKUR): It is just not possible.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Then give me 9½ minutes. Let me start. The steep hike in prices of petrol, diesel, railway freight and fares and hike even in postal rates and increase in customs and excise duties have imposed a back-breaking burden on the common man. The sharp increase in the prices of essential commodities was reflected in the whole price index jumping almost every week. Because of the all-round escalation in prices, there was bound to be a legitimate demand for increase in wages. It appears that the Indian rupee is following the trail of Italian lira or Japanese yen. And our friend, Mr. Dipen Ghosh mentioned that the value of rupee is 12 paise. I will not be suprised that if this Government continues with this policy, the value of rupee will become 3 paise, and we will talk in trillions and billions like we talk about Italian liras and Japanese yens and then only we will be able to do our business or work in the Government departments.

Sir, I also want to mention some statistics. The price of manufactured food products, for example, sugar rose by 11.7 per cent, gur by 32.4 per cent, khandsari by 27.3 per cent, grain mills products by 13.3 per cent, and the dairy products rose steeply by 11.9 per cent as against 6.8 per cent in the previous year. This is happening only in the last quarter. I am not talking about yearly figures. The prices of manufactured food products rose by 12.1 per cent from January to March, 1990. For edible oils, there has been a persistent upward trend in this quarter once more. It increased by 10.2 per cent only in edible oils. The prices of groundnut oil registered a steep rise of 27 per cent in the last quarter. Compard to this, prices of solvent extracted groundnut oil an drapeseed and mustard oil and groundnut oil declined by 15 per cent, 17.8 per cent and 11.4 per cent last year, that is in 1988-89. Among the coarse cereals, the price of jawar which is used by the poorest of the poor and principally consumed by the rural people continued its steep rise from 12.1 per cent in 1988-89 to 19.2 per cent in 1989-90.

Sir, when we talk about these prices, it has been fully established and even the Prime Minister had mentioned in the PAC meeting that the prices are going up. And they discussed this for one full hour. When the issue of edible oil prices came up, the Prime Minister said that the imports must be kept down because of various problems. But, on the other hand, our Fianace Minister has said yesterday

probably in the Lok Sabha that if required we will import edible oils. I do not know who is correct, whether the Prime Minister or the Finance Minister. I do not know what is going to happen because this kind of rumours are also creating panic in the country. We must have a clear-cut policy. You just say, we are going to import or we are not going to import. Some day we hear that petrol is going to be rationed. And let me tell you, Sir, whenever there are shortages, anywhere in the world—it is a world phenomenon—hoarders will hoard the goods. And not only the hoarders, even the consumers will hoard the goods. You will be surprised that an item like telephones which is not a main item for everybody, people in Bombay are hoarding telephones because there is a shortage of supply of telephones, what to speak of essential commodities.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. CHANDRESH P. THAKUR): How do you hoard telephones?

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Instead of one, you have five telephones because even telephones are being sold.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. CHANDRESH P. THAKUR): You mean telephone receivers?

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Telephone connections. You apply for ten telephones. You get them, and you keep them. Somebody next door comes to you and you give a telephone connection for Rs. 20,000 or Rs. 40,000 or Rs. 50,000. Why is this hoarding? It is because this is an economy of shortages. You might raid the hoarders. I am with you. Please raid. The hon. Minister has said that 25,000 raids have taken place. The hon. Minister has said that 6,000 people have been arrested. All right. But what is the result? Prices are still going up. We are not interested whether you raid or not. We are interested that prices must come down. What economic measures are you taking for bringing the prices down? These are all artificial measures. Why did you let people hoard? Where were you when the production was being made. Why are you not stopping people from getting material so that they cannot hoard. There is no machinery working in the country and that is why people get enough material and then they hoard it. Once they hoard it, and when you raid them, some materials come out. Can you really raid the entire country? In spite of 25,000 raids...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. CHANDRESH P. THAKUR): You want him to hoard the hoarders and put them behind bars?

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: What is happening is this. (*Time bell rings*) Unless you take proper economic measures...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. CHANDRESH P. THAKUR): You have taken nine minutes already.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: I want to explain one simple thing. You cannot continue with an economy of shortages in the country. If it is so, we cannot tackle the price situation. You can deal with the problem of price rise only by having an economy of excesses. You must produce goods at the lowest possible cost. There should be competition. This has been proved all over the world. Even countries like Russia have accepted this. Let there be competition even between two public sectors. I am not saying that you should give everything to the private sector. It is for you to decide what you want to do. But in the case of the public sector, there should be accountability. When there is accountability, it will produce results. If there is competition between two public sectors and one is able to produce goods cheaper, supply goods in the market cheaper, there is nothing wrong in it. The main aim is that goods should of the best quality and they should be available to the

[Shri Santosh Bagrodia]

consumer at the lowest possible price. This is the basic policy. There is no use in making political statements and indulging in political gimmicks.

You say that you have arrested so many people. So what? Can you tell me, Mr. Minister, out of these arrested people, how much quantity you have been able to get? Has it really helped the eighty crore people in the country? Has it really helped the poor people in the country? Is it going to help? It is not going to help.

SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA: Are we repsonsible for all the bad things? We have only inherited these things. Are we responsible? It is you who have managed the whole affair for the last ten years. You have left whatever is the bagasse which is there. We are trying to clear it.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: All right. I will explain it. Sir, I must have the privilege of explaining to the hon. Minister the situation because Prof. Madhu Dandavate...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. CHANDRESH P. THAKUR): At the moment, you have to conclude.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Sir, Prof. Madhu Dandavate had been very kind when he made the statement earlier that we cannot go on asking what the earlier Government did. How can you go on saying like this? How can you go on asking 'what has been done in the last ten years?' or, 'What has been done in the last forty-two years?'?

SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA: It is a question of ten years and four months only. You have left so many bad things. We have to clear all these things. Since you mentioned about it, I had to say this.

श्री अजीत जोगी : आप जब से आये हैं, तब से कितनी कीमत बढ़ी है यह तो देख लीजिये।... (**व्यवधान**)...

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Sir, he is asking me as to what has been done in the last ten years. I am an industrialist. I want to put it on record. When I get a sick industry, can I blame the old owner? It is for me to manage it and to improve the situation. Likewise, you cannot go on throwing the blame on the previous Government. It is now your business to tackle the situation. We want to see how you are going to do it. We want to know what are your plans. You are asking 'What has been done during the last ten years?'. You know what has been done. You have yourself admitted in the Consultative Committees and in the reports of your Ministries like Food, Civil Aviation, etc. Take, for example, foodgrains. The production of foodgrains has gone up. Production of many other things have gone up. Then, what do you want? There is no use in making political statements like this that in the last ten years, we have not done anything. As you know, the country has become self-sufficient in everything, from pin to aircraft. This is what has happened in the last forty-two years. You cannot go on referring to the past. You are aware that only in the last three months, prices have skyrocketed. This shows that the Government has no plan. The Government has no policy. This is what I would like to point out.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. CHANDRESH P. THAKUR): Please conclude.

SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: You have made the point.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. CHANDRESH P. THAKUR): Am I to call the next speaker, Mr. Bagrodia?

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: I am concluding. I have made my point. But there is just one more thing which I want to say.

The Prime Minister had promised that the prices of essential commodities which have risen recently would be stabilised—presumably—at an acceptable level. Some friends have said that it must at the March level. Others have said that it must be at the January level. Some others have said that it must be at the December level. The Prime Minister was very honest in saying that the prices would be stablised at an acceptable level. I do not know what he means by 'acceptable level'. This establishes that the prices have gone up. This is also accepted by the Government. I appreciate it. But I would like to know from the hon. Minister—he should tell us when he replies to the discussion—what are his plans? We are not interested in knowing how many raids you conducted and how many people you arrested. We are interested in knowing about your plans to increase production at the lowest cost. This is all I wanted to mention. Thank you.

SHRI N. E. BALARAM (Kerala): I will just take three or four minutes on this particular point about price rise of consumer things.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. CHANDRESH P. THAKUR): I hope you are speaking on price rise.

SHRI N. E. BALARAM: Yes, only for three or four minutes. I am not going to take much time.

First of all, I do not agree with the theory advanced from both sides that the reason for the price rise is shortage of goods. I do not accept it. The main reason, according to me, is that the private sector is not at all cooperating with the Government on this particular question. For instance, when I asked last time about the price rise in the case of sugar, cement etc., the Minister said in his reply that the production has gone up. Of course, it is a question of difference of opinion on statistics. I do not accept the statistics presented by the Minister. Actually, what is happening is that in the name of scarcity, many industrial houses are hoarding. It is a fact. They are not releasing the stocks in the market, with the result that the prices are increasing. That is one of the main reasons for the rise in prices. I hope the Government has understood the situation because the Prime Minister, while speaking in Vijayawada, according to my information, said that he wants the cooperation of the private sector. He wants the private sector to release stocks and help the process of reducing the prices. So the Government should pursue that line and if they are not prepared to release the stocks and bring the price level a little lower, the Government should not hesitate to take strong action. That is the first point I have to raise.

The second thing is, Government should not go in for administered prices also. I want to make it clear that in the past that was one of the main reasons for the increase in prices. This time also, Prof. Madhu Dandavate did it in an indirect way to some extent. I do not want to hide that fact. But he did not go very far. What I am suggesting is that we should not, at any cost, resort to administered prices in the coming period. If we do that, it will not be possible for the Government to control the prices. That is the second point I want to make.

Then, Sir, the reason why I got up to speak now is that just now I came from a public meeting. There was an agitation on this question in Delhi. All the left parties were there in the agitation. There was a meeting. The slogans raised by the demonstrators were that action should be taken against hoarders. But action was taken against the demonstrators. You have done a good job. I want to congratulate the Government.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. CHANDRESH P. THAKUR): Who has done a good job—the police or the demonstrators?

SHRI N. E. BALARAM: The Police, of course. I do not want to blame Prof. Dandavate. Both of us were together in Meerut jail for 14 hours throughout the night and we know how the police behaves. Today the police did not allow the demonstrators to go ahead. Not only that, one police officer, his name is Mr. Chaturvedi, he is Assistant Police Commissioner, he was manhandling all the party workers, especially my party workers. One of the top leaders of my party, Mr. Prem Sagar Gupta, was humiliated, insulted, manhandled and that gentleman is still lying in the hospital.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Shame!

SHRI N. E. BALARAM: Shame! What else should I say? This is happening here. So, even to agitate against price rise under V. P. Singh's Government is not allowed. Madhuji, I want to tell you, it is a very, very serious situation. We are supporting you just because we thought you will do something good. But you have no business, or your police has no business, to manhandle our party leaders like that—I want to make it very clear.

What is happening here? Who is ruling here? I want to know that. I have seen it. He could not sit, he could not even drink water, and the doctor was saying that his condition was very bad. This is done by your police officer. This is a democratic country and anybody can demonstrate in this country. There was a large number of people, there were four to five thousand people. Some of them have been taken to the court and some have been sentenced to be detained till the court rises. All these things are happning here. ...(*Interruptions*)... When you did it, we opposed it.

DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY (Uttar Pradesh): I am supporting you.

SHRI N. E. BALARAM: What I am saying is, I am seeing now some Rajiv Gandhi symptoms here also. I want them to stop it. These Rajiv Gandhi symptoms should not be there. That is what I am seeing. So, what I want is, the Government should take strong action against the people who are preventing peaceful demonstrations.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. CHANDRESH P. THAKUR): Your three minutes were long over.

SHRI N. E. BALARAM: So, I request the honourable Minister that this particular incident may be inquired into because this is a serious question. They were only participating in a very peaceful agitation.

SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: On this we are with the honourable Member.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Not only you but the whole House. ...(*Interruptions*)...Even on behalf of... ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Is Prof. Dandavate also joining us in the procession?

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Listen to me. Sir, if the demonstrators were demonstrating against the price rise peacefully...

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Against you.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Doesn't matter, even against me, even if they demonstrate in front of my house. In case they have been manhandled and they have been given the treatment which our comrade has indicated, I assure you on behalf of the Government that a thorough inquiry about this incident will be made and those responsible will be dealt with.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. CHANDRESH P. THAKUR): I am glad you have said this, Mr. Minister,

because the police has to apply a lot of moderation and manhandling is not the right thing to do.

SHRI T. R. BALU (Tamil Nadu): The police officials should be properly dealt with.

DR. G. VIJAYA MOHAN REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): They have to get the cooperation of the people, and without getting the cooperation of the people how can they tackle the vested interests?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. CHANDRESH P. THAKUR): You have heard the Minister: he has given an assurance.

PROF. SOURENDRA BHATTACHARJEE (West Bengal): Sir, I went to the place myself today, had talked with Mr. Prem Sagar Gupta, and the outcome which has been reported by Mr. N. E. Balaram is really astounding. I am happy at the assurance given by the Minister that the offenders would be brought to book.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. CHANDRESH P. THAKUR): Shrimati Veena Verma. ...(*Interruptions*)...It is a lady who is interested in going early. So, please cooperate.

श्रीमती वीणा वर्मा (मध्य प्रदेश) : माननीय उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय बहुत-बहुत शुक्रिया। मुझे गुस्सा लग रहा था कि महंगाई पर सदन में सिर्फ पुरुष लोग ही चिंता करते हैं।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो० चन्द्रेश पी०-ठाकुर) : नहीं, आप लोग तो सबसे ज्यादा चिंता करती हैं।

श्रीमती वीणा वर्मा : मुझे यह डर लगने लगा था कि पूरे देश की आधी जनसंख्या आज महिलाओं की है।

PROF. SOURENDRA BHATTACHARJEE: You are a victim!

श्रीमती वीणा वर्मा : वह तो सबसे ज्यादा विक्टिम है महंगाई की और महंगाई की सबसे ज्यादा मार महिलाओं पर पड़ती है। लेकिन महंगाई पर चिंता करने के लिये समय मुश्किल से शायद महिलाओं को दिया जाता है।

श्री अजीत जोगी : सदन में अकेली प्रतिनिधि हैं अभी ?

श्रीमती वीणा वर्मा : पहले जब हम छोटे थे तब महंगाई के विषय में सुना करते थे। तब यह सुनते थे कि अब युद्ध होने वाला है, या तो महायुद्ध से पहले महंगाई बढ़ती थी या महायुद्ध के बाद महंगाई बढ़ती थी। लेकिन अब महंगाई बहुत कामन शब्द हो गया है। महंगाई रोज बढ़ रही है। अभी ऑनरेबिल साथियों ने कहा कि किस-किस चीज पर क्या-क्या दाम बढ़े, कितने बढ़े, मैं उस डिटेल में नहीं जाना चाहती, लेकिन यह सही है कि महंगाई बढ़ रही है। सबसे ज्यादा महंगाई की मार घर में रहने वाली महिलाओं पर पड़ती है। पुरुष तो काम कर आ जाता है और घर की महिलाओं को, हाउस वाइफ को अपनी तनख्वाह पकड़ा देता है और कहता है मैं नहीं जानता इस बारे में, जैसे भी हो खर्च चलाओ। जिस पर सबसे ज्यादा असर पड़ता है वह महिला, हाउस वाइफ या गृहिणी जो घर को चलाती है उस पर पड़ता है और उसका असर पड़ता है बच्चों पर। मैं मंत्री महोदय का ध्यान खींचना चाहूंगी कि सबसे बड़ा महंगाई का असर जो बच्चों पर पड़ने वाला है या घर की महिलाओं पर पड़ने वाला है उसके लिये आप क्या कर रहे हैं ? बच्चा जो पहले दिन में दो बार दूध पीता था अब उसको एक बार भी मुश्किल से मिलता है। यह अलग चर्चा का विषय है कि कौन सी चीज एसेन्शियल कोमोडिटीज में आती है और कौन सी चीज नहीं आती है। मैं यह समझती हूं कि घर में हर काम आने वाली वस्तु जो है वह आवश्यक विष्य वस्तु है उसका दाम बराबर बढ़ा है – चाहे आप स्कूल की फीस लें, स्कूल की किताबें लें, बस किराया ले,

[श्रीमती वीणा वर्मा]

रेल भाड़ा ले, गस का चूल्हा लें, तेल, नमक, चीनी, चाय कोई भी चीज लें तो ऐसा लगता है कि हर चीज के दाम बढ़े हैं लेकिन मनुष्य के जीवन का दाम कम हो गया है। मनुष्य मर जाता है तो उसका दाम ज्यादा है, कहीं दुर्घटना हो जाती है उस समय मुआवजा जो मिलता है उसके दाम भी बढ़ गये लेकिन उसके जीवन का दाम कम हो गया है। अभी मेरे एक साथी ने कहा कि बहुत सी चीजों के दाम कम कर दिये गये हैं। उन्होंने कहा कि हम फिजूलखर्ची कम कर सकते हैं। उन्होंने यह भी कहा कि हिन्दी कमेंटी बाहर जाती है उसको विदेशों में जाने की क्या जरूरत है। मैं आनरेबल साथी को यह बता देना चाहती हूं कि जब भी समाज में मानव मूल्यों की संवेदनशील महत्वपूर्ण बिन्दु की कमी होती है तो सामाजिक पतन होता है, राष्ट्र के चरित्र निर्माण में रुकावट आती है। देश के विकास के लिये जो योजनायें बनती हैं उसमें पतन होता है। और जब कभी महंगाई बढ़ता है तो उसका गुस्सा, समाज का गुस्सा, आदमी का गुस्सा घर में रहने वाली गृहिणी पर निकलता है और जब वह गृहिणी महंगाई से प्रताड़ित होती है तो उसका गुस्सा बच्चों पर निकलता है।

आनरेबुल दीपेन घोष जी ने कहा कि हिन्दी कमेटियों का बाहर जाना बन्द किया जाना चाहिये, विदेश यात्रा बन्द की जाय। मैं सरकार से कहना चाहती हूं कि और भी बहुत सी चीजें हैं जिन पर सरकार द्वारा फिजूलखर्ची हो रही है। पेट्रोल जो कि महंगा हो गया है वह सिर्फ सरकारी गाड़ियों में ही ज्यादातर इस्तेमाल होता है। उसका भी खर्च कम किया जाय। हम सलाहकार समितियों की मीटिंगें बुलाते हैं। उसमें पहले तो नाश्ता आता है, चाय आती है, खाना होता है, लंच होता है और रात का डिनर होता है? उसमें हम खर्च कम कर सकते हैं। सरकारी खर्च में कटौती कर सकते हैं। बार-बार टेलीविजन द्वारा घोषणा की जाती है कि सरकार सख्त कदम उठाने वाली है महंगाई के खिलाफ। सरकार सख्त कदम उठाने वाली है इसकी चेतावनी दी जा रही है? मैं यह कहना चाहती हूं कि जो चेतावनी देता है वह काम नहीं करता। जो काम करता है वह चेतावनी नहीं देता।

श्री अजीत जोगी : जो गरजता है वह बरसता नहीं।

श्रीमती वीणा वर्मा : आप सख्त कदम क्यों नहीं उठाते किसने रोका है सख्त कदम उठाने के लिये। मुनाफाखोरों को पकड़िये और उनको सजा दीजिये। मैं मन्त्री महोदय से पूछना चाहूंगी कि कोई रिकार्ड बतायेंगे पिछले पांच महीने का, जब से आपकी सरकार आयी है तब से आपने किसी मुनाफाखोर को पकड़ा हो और सजा दी हो कोई ऐसी सख्त नीति आप बनाने जा रहे हैं जिसमें सूद मुनाफाखोरों को, होर्डर्स को पकड़ कर सजा दे सकें। कानून और कड़ा बनायेंगे जिससे उनके अगेंस्ट कारवाई कर सकें, ताकि वह भविष्य में मुनाफाखोरी न कर सकें।

दूसरे यह भी कहा गया है कि पिछली सरकार की नीतियों की वजह से बहुत सी महंगाई बढ़ी है। मैं मानती हूं कि महंगाई बढ़ी है इसको कोई रोक नहीं सकता, विश्व भर में सब जगह महंगाई बढ़ी है, कोई भी ऐसा देश नहीं है जहां पर महंगाई नहीं बढ़ रही है। लेकिन यह भी सही है कि एक रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, नवभारत टाइम्स के इकनोमिक टाइम्स ने एक सर्वे करवाया था जो 8 नवम्बर, 1989 के अखबार में छपा था, उसमें कहा गया है कि पिछले पांच वर्षों में महंगाई बढ़ी है और श्री राजीव गांधी के जमाने में भी महंगाई कम नहीं बढ़ी है, महंगाई हमेशा से बढ़ रही है, यह एक फिनोमेना है, प्रक्रिया है, लेकिन सिर्फ महंगाई ही नहीं बढ़ी है सुख समृद्धि भी बढ़ी है, लोगों की उपभोक्ता वस्तुयें खरीदने की क्षमता भी बढ़ी है। सबसे ज्यादा जो चीजें खरीदी गई वे हैं मिक्सर, ग्राईन्डर,

फ्रिज, टी.वी. और सबसे ज्यादा मध्यम वर्ग के परिवारों में वैक्यूम क्लीनर खरीदा गया। पहले कहा जाता था कि महिलाओं को नौकरियों में लगाइये, उनका आर्थिक दृष्टि से आत्मनिर्भर बनाइये लेकिन अब महंगाई के बढ़ने से महिलाओं में काम करने का नजरिया बदल रहा है और वे सोचने लगी हैं कि परिवार को आर्थिक मदद करने के लिये उन्हें बाहर नौकरी करनी चाहिये। इसलिये मैं मंत्री जी से पूछना चाहती हूं कि महंगाई का जो दूरगामी प्रभाव घर पर पड़ रहा है, बच्चों पर पड़ रहा है, मानव मूल्यों पर पड़ रहा है, नैतिक मूल्यों पर पड़ रहा है जिस राष्ट्र का पतन होता है और इसलिये अत्याचार बढ़ रहे हैं, गुस्सा बढ़ रहा है और जब कोई राजा नाकामियाब रहता है, सरकार नाकामियाब रहती है तो उसकी असफलता का असर जनता पर पड़ता है एक तबका दूसरे कमजोर तबके पर अपना गुस्सा करता है, नीचे के तबकों पर अत्याचार बढ़ते हैं, हत्यायें होती हैं, महिलाओं पर अत्याचार बढ़ते हैं और, बच्चों पर अत्याचार होते हैं। इन बातों पर आपको ध्यान देना चाहिये। मेरे कुछ प्रश्न हैं मुनाफाखोरों पर आप शिकंजा छापे डालें और उनका कड़े से कड़ा सजा दें और खास तौर पर पब्लिक डिस्ट्रिब्यूशन सिस्टम को ठीक किया जाय। नैतिक पतन में सुधार लाने के लिये आप क्या कर रहे हैं महंगाई बढ़ती ही जा रही है और चरित्र पर इसका असर न पड़े, इसके लिये आप क्या कर रहे हैं जब कोई बात की जाती है तो यह कहा जाता है कि यह प्रोडक्टिव है या अनप्रोडक्टिव है और यह देखा जाता है कि इससे कितनी प्रोडक्टिविटी बढ़ेगी। लेकिन मानव मूल्य ऐसी चीज जो अनप्रोडक्टिव है प्रोडक्टिविटी के नाम से इसकी उपेक्षा नहीं होनी चाहिये इस पर भी महंगाई का असर नहीं पड़े, इसको आप किस प्रकार से चैक करेंगे।

DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Today we are discussing a subject which is directly related to the common man, more aptly to the common housewife. A common housewife is not interested in the Bofors scandal, she is not interested in the airbus deal, she is not interested in the Thakkar Commission's Rport, she is interested in the prices of the essential commodities. Her main concern today is what to do when her son or daughter asks for an extra cup of coffee or tea, her concern is what to do when a guest comes to her house. So, today the Indian housewife is afraid whenever a guest comes to her house. She is not in a position to offer a cup of coffee or tea to her guests. That is her position today.

In the year 1980, the price rise of onions had resulted in the fall of the Janata Government. In other words, onions had helped Shrimati Indira Gandhi that time. In the year 1989, price rise of sugar and bidies had resulted in the debacle of the Rajiv Gandhi Government. What is the situation today? Today not only the prices of sugar, not only the prices of onions, not only the prices of bidies, but the prices of all the commodities are increasing day by day.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: What about edible oils?

DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Today everything is increasing.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: According to you this Government also will fall.

DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Don't be hasty. I will come to that.

Sir, after the presentation of the General Budget, the price of wheat has gone up by 8 per cent, edible oils by 14 per cent, jaggery by 15 per cent, salt by 17 per cent, tea by 30 per cent and cement by 60 per cent. The wholesale price index has gone up by nearly 3.8 per cent and inflation has gone up by 8.5 per cent.

[Dr. Narreddy Thulasi Reddy]

Sir, somewhere I read in the newspapers that Shrimati Pramila Dandavate, the famous Janata Dal leader of women's wing and wife of the hon. Finance Minister has led a women's procession against prices rise. By this we can imagine the intensity, the severity of this situation. What are the reasons for this prise rise? How many reasons are there for the death of Karuna? So many reasons are there for the price rise also. I can say that a party which ruled the country for over 40 years, a family which ruled this country for over 40 years is also mainly responsible for today's situation. They have to agree.

SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: We don't agree.

DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: You have to agree. By the end of December, 1989, what was the budget deficit? It was Rs. 13,800 crores. What was the external debt? It was Rs. 84,000 crores. So our foreign exchange position was only sufficient for us to import only for 45 days. That was the situation at the end of 1989. This was the financial situation inherited from the Congress Government by the National Front Government. Sir, you know that as subply increases, the prices should come down. That is the fundamental principle in economics. But that is not the situation today. In the year 1980 the sugar production was 51 lakh tonnes but today it is 107 lakh tonnes. Even then there is scarcity of sugar in the market. Why? It is because of hoarding and black-marketing by illegal traders. The Government has increased the procurement price of rice and wheat more than our expectations to help the farmers. The traders are expecting that the Government would increase the procurement price in case of other commodities also so that they can hoard these stocks for a temporary period. That is also one of the reasons for the price rise.

The second thing is that the Govment has declared in advance due to scarcity of foreign exchange, "we will not import essential commodities." I feel the Government should not have declared it in advance. There is no threat for black-marketeers that prices will come down as soon as we start importing. That is also one of the reasons for the price rise.

The third thing is, war atmosphere on our borders is also one of the reasons for the price rise. After the General Budget the hike in prices of diesal and petrol is also responsible for the price rise. In addition to this, the Railways have increased the freight charges. That is also one of the main reasons for the price rise. Not only that, the ULFA in Assam is also responsible for the decrease in the production of tea. That is also one of the reasons for the price rise in the essential commodities. Then how to solve this problem? The National Front Government is trying very sincerely to combat the situation. In almost all the National Front Government party meetings, they are discussing this subject but there is no positive rsult. There must be a multipronged approach. A multi-pronged strategy should be evolved. Sir the buffer stock of sugar should be released into the market temporarily to some extent. (*Time bell rings*). Give me two minutes, Sir. By releasing some buffer stock of sugar temporarily, sugar scarcity can be controlled. Then temporarily by decreasing the export order or by staggering the export of tea to USSR to certain days, it can also combat the situation. By controlling the terrorist activities of ULFA, the tea production can be increased. In certain fields, the international competition should be allowed in internal market. It should be examined very cautiously. Then there are many laws against the hoarders and the black-marketeers. These laws should

be implemented strictly and vigorously. In order to increase production in the agricultural sector and the industrial sector, new strategy should be evolved. High yielding varieties should be evolved and inputs should be given to the farmers. There must be cooperation and coordination among all the Ministries of the Central Government and there should be close coordination between the Centre and the States. There is a proverb of a great poet of Andhra Pradesh. He had said, "no words, only deeds." So, Sir, I request this Government no words, only do deeds. By this you can control the price rise by proper and effective implementation of the strategy. You should control the price rise and you have to control the price rise. Otherwise, this price rise will ring a death-knell to the National Front Government.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. CHANDRESH P. THAKUR): Now Mr. Vithalrao Madhavrao Jadhav.

श्री विठ्ठलराव माधवराव जाधव (महाराष्ट्र) : उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, ..

THE VITE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. CHANDRESH P. THAKUR): Hon. Members, we have to ask for the collective wisdom of the House. It is already going to be 6 O' clock. Do we want to sit longer or not? What is the collective wisdom of the House?

श्री राम अवधेश सिंह (बिहार) : कांग्रेस, लोग तो बहुत बोल चुके हैं। हमको भी टाइम दिया जाए। हर रोज मेरे साथ ऐसे ही होता है मेरा नाम लास्ट में आता है तब तक बहस समाप्त हो जाती है (व्यवधान)

श्री विठ्ठलराव माधवराव जाधव: मेरा नाम लास्ट में आया और मैंने शुरू भी नहीं किया। आप रिस्ट्रिक्शन लगा रहे हैं।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो० चन्द्रेश पी० ठाकुर) : मैं पूछ रहा हूं आप लोगों की सहमति क्या है, क्या 6 बजे बन्द कर दें या डिसक्शन चलाएं।

श्री राम अवधेश सिंह : इनके गिन कर नौन आदमी बैठे हैं। **(व्यवधान)**

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: It shows how they are concerned about the price rise.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. CHANDRESH P. THAKUR): They are equally concerned, I can assure you that. One thing is very clear that people are anxious to make their contributions. The issue is very important. So there should be an opportunity to everybody. But each one of you will have to speak for not more than two to three minutes so that in the next 15 minutes, we are able to finish the discussion and the Minister will make his response tomorrow.

श्री विठ्ठलराव माधवराव जाधव : उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, तीन मिनट में कैसे संभव है ? मैं 10 मिनट में खत्म करूंगा। अभी अभी मेरे मित्रों ने जो कहा, उन्होंने मेरे प्रश्न का जवाब दिया है **(व्यवधान)**

श्री राम अवधेश सिंह : आप लोगों को प्राइस राइज की क्या चिन्ता है **(व्यवधान)**

श्री विठ्ठलराव माधवराव जाधव : क्या चिंता है, वह मैं आपको दिखाता हूं। आपकी क्या चिंता है वह भी मैं आपको दिखाता हूं। मेरे मित्रों ने यह बताया **(व्यवधान)** बजट के पहले जो कीमतें थीं और बजट के 15 दिन के बाद जो कीमतें थीं उसमें गहूं जो पहले 250 रुपये था वह बजट के बाद 270 रुपये हो गया और राइस 350 से बढ़कर 360 रुपये प्रति क्विंटल हो गया। शुगर का 825 था, 920 हो गया, गुड़ 400 था, 460 हो गया, ग्राउंड नट आयल 400 से 500 हो गया।

[श्री विठ्ठलराव माधवराव जाधव]

इसका मतलब यह है कि 15 दिनों में ये जो इसेंशियल कमोडीटीज़ हैं उनमें शुगर में 12 प्रतिशत, गुड़ में 15 प्रतिशत, एडीबल आयल में 14 प्रतिशत, और व्हीट में 8 प्रतिशत की वृद्धि हुई। यहां तक कि नमक जो है वह भी महंगा हो चुका है, उसमें 17 प्रतिशत बढ़ गया है। टी में 30 प्रतिशत और सीमेंट में 60 प्रतिशत की बढ़ोतरी हुई है। 15 दिन या एक महीने के अंतर में इतनी कीमतें बढ़ी हैं। रूलिंग पार्टी की सरकार से मेरा विनम्र कहना है कि गत 40 साल में 15 दिन में इतने बड़े पैमाने पर प्राइस राइज कभी नहीं हुआ। मैं दावे से कह सकता हूं मंत्री महोदय.. (**व्यवधान**)

श्री नाथूराम मिर्धा : आपके राज में चुनावों में 14 रुपये किलो चीनी बिकी है। यह असत्य है तो पूछ लें सबसे और आपने कहा कि कभी नहीं बढ़ी। यूं क्यों बोलते है... (**व्यवधान**)

श्री राम नरेश यादव (उत्तर प्रदेश): आप सदन को गुमराह कर रहे हैं।

श्री विठ्ठलराव माधवराव जाधव : आप जो कह रहे है उसका कोई ग्राउंड नहीं है... (**व्यवधान**)

श्री नाथूराम मिर्धा : मैंने कहा कि चुनाव में चीनी 14 रुपये किलो बिक रही थी।

श्री विठ्ठलराव माधवराव जाधव : चुनाव में ब्लैक में जो बिकता है उन दामों को नहीं कहा जाता है.. (**व्यवधान**)

श्री नाथूराम मिर्धा : सब लोगों से पूछें, 13 रुपये, 14 रुपये, 18 रुपये किलो तक लोगों ने गरीबों ने चुनाव के दिनों में शादी ब्याह के लिये ली। आप क्या बात कर रहे हैं।

श्री विठ्ठलराव माधवराव जाधव : यह एक दो हफ्ते की बात हो सकती है.. (**व्यवधान**) जो फायदा हुआ वह एंटी सोशल एलीमेंट्स को हुआ होगा (**व्यवधान**)

श्री राम नरेश यादव : यह तो बिल्कुल वास्तविकता से परे है कि 14 रुपये 18 रुपये किलो चीनी बिकी।

श्री नाथू राम मिर्धा : आप जैसे बुद्धे आदमी असत्य बोल रहे हैं।

श्री राम नरेश यादव : आप असत्य कह रहे हैं... (व्यवधान) इसलिये जनता से चनाव में जो आप वादा करके आये हैं तो केवल वही बात यहां करें.. (व्यवधान)

श्री राथूराम मिर्धा : मैंने कहा था कि 14 रुपये से कम करेंगे और मैंने यह वादा निभाया है।

श्री राम नरेश यादव : चीनी कभी इतनी बिकी ही नहीं है, यह बिल्कुल वास्तविकता से परे है। यह गुमराह करने का काम है।

श्री विठ्ठलराव माधवराव जाधव : हमारे मिर्धा साहब के लिए मुझे बहुत आदर है। उन्होंने कहा कि इस साल चीनी का उत्पादन 107 लाख टन हुआ है। यह बहुत सराहनीय बात है। मगर यह जो 107 लाख टन चीनी का उत्पादन हुआ है इसका कोई भी श्रेय जनता दल की सरकार को नहीं जाता। पिछली सरकार की इर्रीगेशन और शुगर केन के दाम के बारे में जो नीति रही है यह उसका नतीजा है कि 107 लाख टन चीनी का उत्पादन हुआ है और ज्यादा से ज्यादा हमारे देश के किसानों को उसका श्रेय जाता है। दूसरा, मंत्री महोदय बहुत अच्छी तरह से जानते हैं कि महाराष्ट्र स्टेट का चीनी के उत्पादन में बहुत बड़ा हिस्सा है इसलिए उनको भी श्रेय जाता है। इस डिपार्टमेंट का हेड होने के नाते मैं मंत्री महोदय का अभिनन्दन करता हूं मगर इस देश के किसानों ने जो प्रगति की है वह राजीव गांधी के नेतृत्व में की है। देखिए मंत्री जो जो सच है वह मंजूर कीजिए।

मैंने पहले बजट में कहा था कि इस साल इस देश में अनाज का उत्पादन 175 मिलियन टन हो जाएगा। अभी जो उन्होंने आंकड़े दिये हैं उससे यह लगता है कि 173 मिलियन टन फूड ग्रेन्स का प्रोडक्शन हुआ है। जो रिवाइज्ड इस्टीमेट आयेगा उसमें मैं किसान होने के नाते जरूर कह सकता हूं कि अनाज का उत्पादन 175 मिलियन टन तक जा सकता है। मैं एक साइंटिफिक किसान हूं खेती भी करता हूं। इसलिए मेरा ऐसा मत है। यह बात किसी पर इल्जाम लगाने की नहीं है। मंत्री जी ने कहा कि लास्ट बजट के बाद डेढ़ महीने में कितनी वृद्धि हुई। बजट के बाद डेढ़ महीने में 16 रुपये किलो ग्राउंड नट के जो ग्रेन्स थे वे 20 रुपये हुए, एडिबल आयल 22 रुपये किलो था 24.50 रुपये किलो हो गया, ग्राउंड नट आयल 24 रुपये से 26.50 रुपये किलो हो गया. **(व्यवधान)** मतलब ये जो कह रहे हैं कि इनका कोई योगदान नहीं है तो यह बात सच नहीं है।

आपने जरूर कदम उठाया है। आपने कहा कि 6 हजार लोगों को बंद कर दिया है। यह सराहनीय बात है। मेरा एक विनम्र प्रश्न है जो आपके राज से भी और हमारे राज से भी ताल्लुक रखता है कि बहुत से लोग जो ब्लैक मार्केटिंग करते हैं सरकार उनको पकड़ती है और बाद में छोड़ देती है तो उनको सजा होती है या नहीं, यह बात सोचने की है। जस्टिस डिलेड इस जस्टिस डिनाइड। मैं आपके माध्यम से मंत्री जी को यह कहना चाहता हूं कि ये जो ब्लैक मार्केटियर्स हैं, होर्डर्स और जो हमारा जनरल पब्लिक डिस्ट्रिब्यूशन सिस्टम है इनके लिए एक अलग न्याय प्रणाली बनायी जाए। जो भी कोई गुनाहगार है उसको दस पंद्रह दिन के अंदर सजा होनी चाहिए। जब तक हम उनको यह शिक्षा नहीं देंगे तब तक वह रास्ते पर नहीं आने वाले हैं वह सुधरने वाले नहीं हैं। **(समय की घंटी)** मैं दो मिनट में अपनी बात खत्म कर दूंगा। सामान्य मनुष्य की परेशानियां बढ़ रही हैं।

मैं आपके मंत्री परिषद् की एक बात की सराहना करता हूं, माननीय मंत्री महोदय कि कुछ दिन पहले चौधरी देवी लाल जी ने किसान के धान्य उत्पादन के भाव बढ़ाये हैं। वह अच्छी बात की है। मैं कांग्रेस वाला होते हुए भी इसकी सराहना करता हूं कि किसानों को अपने उत्पादन का जो मूल्य मिलना चाहिए जो रिटर्न मिलना चाहिए इस दिशा में सोचने का जो आपने कदम उठाया है, उसका मैं तो पूरे दिल से समर्थन करता हूं। मगर उसके बाद यह भी देखना चाहिए कि किसानों को पांच सौ रुपये मिलता है. मगर जब वह मार्केट में आता है, तो उसे सात सौ रुपये मिलता है। यह जो मिडिलमैन है, यह जो आढ़तिया है अंदर यह जो एजेंट बैठा है, या ब्लैक मार्केटियर, है, यह जो दलाल है, उसके बारे में हमें बड़ी गंभीरता से सोचना है। जहां तक मेरा ख्याल है आपके मंत्री मंडल में काफी किसानों की भर्ती है और आपके दिल में किसानों के प्रति काफी दर्द है, इनके लिए काफी प्रेम है, जैसे कि मेरे दिल में भी है, मगर जब हम देखते है कि आज आप जो कदम उठा रहे है, उससे यह नहीं लगता कि किसानों के लिए, खेत मजदूर के लिए, मजदूरों के लिए कोई अच्छी बात हो रही है।

मैं आपसे यह प्रार्थना करता हूं कि उसके बारे में गंभीरता से सोचिये।

जनता दल ने काफी वादे किये थे और वह हर रोज वादे करते है। वादे तो इतने करते हैं कि उन्हें पता नहीं रहता कि कल उन्होंने क्या वादा किया था और आज क्या वादा किया था। वादा करना और तोड़ना तो उनके जीवन का सिद्धांत बन चुका है। तो वह कुछ नई बात नहीं है।

श्री यशवंत सिन्हा : किसके जीवन का?

श्री विठ्ठलराव माधवराव जाधव : आपके जीवन का। आपको प्रधान मंत्री जी ने चुनाव के स्पीच में कहा था - मैं एक बात कहना चाहता हूं... **(व्यवधान)**

श्री कमल मोरारका (राजस्थान) **:** प्रधान मंत्री ने कहा था और हम लोगों को कोई खबर ही नहीं हुई।

श्री विठ्ठलराव माधवराव जाधव : आपको तो खबर हुई है। मगर आदमी जब ढोंग करता है, प्रिटेंड करता है, तो वह कान में सुन कर भी उसे छोड़ देता है और कहता है कि हमने नहीं सुना। **(व्यवधान)** आपके प्रधान मंत्री ने कहा था कि किसानों का सोलह हजार करोड़ रुपये का जो कर्जा है.. **(व्यवधान)** जरा गंभीरता से सुनिये।

वीरेन्द्र वर्मा जी मेरे विचारों से बहुत अच्छी तरह से वाकिफ हैं। सोलह हजार करोड़ रुपये का किसानों का जो कर्जा हैं।

...Interruptions...

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: Are you aware of the promise made by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru that the day after he assumed power, he would hang the hoarders and black-marketeers on the nearest lamp-post? Have you heard of that historical promise? ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: Mr. Dipen Ghosh, you are a communist. You have broken so many promises in West Bengal and now you are levelling charges against us...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: I want to know whether you have heard of that historical promise? ...(*Interruptions*) They are in the books only...(*Interruptions*)... Have you heard of those promise?...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Mr. Jadhav is right "Making promises and breaking them" is part of the Congress culture, but why are you doing it? ...*Interruptions*)...

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru was a renowned personality of the world. Whatever promises he had given to the people, not only the people of India but to the people of the entire world, he kept those promises. ...(*Interruptions*)... So you don't charge anything against Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru...(*Interruptions*)... If you hate Pandit Nehru or other Nehrus, that is a different thing. ...(*Interruptions*)...

यह मुझे डिस्टर्ब कर रहे हैं, तो मैं क्या करूं। वह मुझे डिस्टर्ब करेंगे तो ज्यादा समय लग ही जायगा। आप उसको कहिए कि वह मेरा भाषण शांतिपूर्वक सुनें तो मैं खत्म कर दूंगा।

यह राजनीति में जो प्रमुखता के रूप में उभर आये हैं–काला बाजार वाले, भ्रष्टाचार करने वाले वह किसी भी पार्टी के हों ऐसा कोई कानून बनाना चाहिए कि अगर किसी पार्टी का कोई मेम्बर काला बाजार करने वाला है, या भ्रष्टाचार करने वाला है तो उसकी पालिटिक्स में एंट्री बन्द करनी चाहिए।

उसके बाद जो इनसान की बुनियादी रोटी, कपड़ा और मकान तथा इसेंशल कमाडिटीज है, उसके बारे में कोई प्राइसिंग पालिसी होनी चाहिए कि प्रोडक्शन कास्ट क्या है और डिस्ट्रब्यूशन कास्ट क्या है ? what should be the cost of production and what should be the cost of distribution?

उसमें एक पालिसी तय करना जरूरी है और सारी पार्टियों का उसे सपोर्ट करना भी जरूरी है।

श्री दीपेन घोष : क्या यह पालिसी पहले तैयार नहीं हुई थी ?

श्री विठ्ठलराव माधवराव जाधव : आप पहले की बात करते हैं, आप कह तो मेरे पास बहुत सारे कानून हैं, वह पढ़कर सुना दूं।

दीपेन घोष : नहीं आप कह रहे हैं कि अभी तैयार करें।...**(व्यवधान)** तो पहले तैयार नहीं थी क्या ?...**(व्यवधान)**

श्री विठ्ठलराव माधवराव जाधव : यह हमारे जो मित्र हैं सी०पी०आई० (एम) वाले और बी०जे०पी० वाले यह बड़े सिद्धवादी हैं ।

श्री दीपेन घोष : आपने कहा है कि यह पालिसी तैयार करनी है । मैं पूछता हूं कि पहले जमाने में क्या यह नहीं हुई थी ?

श्री विठ्ठलराव माधवराव जाधव : अगर यह होती, तो जो एक्सप्लायटेशन गरीबों का होता है तो वह इतना नहीं होता था ... (**व्यवधान**)

एक माननीय सदस्य : आप तो मानते हैं।

श्री विठ्ठलराव माधवराव जाधव : आप तो कहते हैं कि हमने कुछ किया नहीं । मगर आप करने को आये हैं, तो कुछ करके दिखाइय । मेरे कहने का मतलब यह है ।

श्री दीपेन घोष : जो आपका काम है वह आपने नहीं किया आप चाहते हैं उसका काम वह करें ।... (**व्यवधान**)

श्री विठ्ठलराव माधवराव जाधव : तो आप क्या मतलब है कुछ भी न करें। अगर कम्युनिस्ट चाहते हैं कि कुछ भी न करें तो यह सरकार तो कुछ कर ही नहीं रही हैं और उसमें कोई दो राय नहीं हो सकती उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय मेरी यह आनरेबल मिलिस्टर से रिक्वेस्ट है ... (**व्यवधान**)

उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो० चन्द्रेश पी० ठाकुर): यह आपकी अंतिम रिकवेस्ट होनी चाहिए।

श्री विठ्ठलराव माधवराव जाधव : मैं एक मिनट में खत्म कर दूंगा । एक बात है कि अगर स्टील के भाव देखें मार्केट में जाकर तो अभी दस हजार रुपये टन से ज्यादा पर बिक रहा है और सीमेंट भी है। ये दोनों ही जरूरतमन्द चीजें हैं और एसेंशल कमोडिटीज हैं और उसके बारे में विचार करने की जरूरत है ।

अब दूसरी बात जो है यह डीजल और पैट्रोल की कीमतें जो बढ़ाई गई हैं उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, डीजल और पैट्रोल की कीमतों के बढ़ाने की वजह से कृषि ट्रांसपोर्ट सिस्टम रिक्शा वाले और छोटे-छोटे व्हीकल रखने वाले जो गरीब लोग हैं उनको भी काफी तकलीफ आती है इसके लिए सोचना बहुत जरूरी है । There should be a comprehensive pricing policy. The Government has given so many promises in the House and outside and, so, they must come forward and they must show their sincerity, honesty and promptness in fulfilling those promises and implementing those policies. Thank you, Sir.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. CHANDRESH P. THAKUR): Mr. Kiruttinan.

श्री राम अवधेश सिंह : मान्यवर मुझको चांस दे दीजिए । जिस पार्टी से कुछ लोग बोल चुके हैं ... (**व्यवधान**)

उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो० चन्द्रेश पी० ठाकुर): इस पार्टी से कोई नहीं बोला है । डी. एम.के. से कोई नहीं बोला है ।

श्री राम अवधेश सिंह : अपने आइडिया दे चुके हैं । ... (**व्यवधान**)

उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो० चन्द्रेश पी० ठाकुर) डी०एम०के० से किसी ने अभी इस पर अपने विचार प्रकट नहीं किए हैं।

श्री राम अवधेश सिंह : फिर हम लोगों को बाहर जाने दिया जाए ।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो० चन्द्रेश पी० ठाकुर): हम आपकी बात सुनेंगे । ... (**व्यवधान**)

श्री राम अवधेश सिंह : इसके बाद हमको जरूर दे दीजिए । . . . (व्यवधान) कांग्रेस के लोग तो हैं नहीं ।

एक माननीय सदस्य : है भाई ।

SHRI PASUMPON THA. KIRUTTINAN (Tamil Nadu): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, the problem of rising prices has assumed staggering proportions during the last few months.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. CHANDRESH P. THAKUR): Please be brief. I am trying to hold the audience!

SHRI PASUMPON THA. KIRUTTINAN: Sir, our party has got some time.

Most unfortunately, Sir, today, the citizens are finding the situation absolutely unmanageable, particularly because the prices of essential commodities are sky-rocketting day by day. The housewives are finding it extremely difficult to meet both ends meet. During the course of the last one month, there has been a steep hike in the prices of sugar, edible oils, pulses, tea etc. It is an irony that the Government has not been able to keep any check on the phenomenon of rising prices. In the current situation, the most-hit section includes the middle-income group and the weaker sections of the society and especially the housewives are the major sufferers who are finding it difficult to run the household due to the high increase in the prices of essential commodities. Unfortunately, today the situation is getting from bad to worse and therefore, the Government will have to address itself immediately to the burning problem of prise-rise.

Sir, the Government appears to be exerting itself to control the rise in prices. This Prime Minister had promptly convened an Inter-Ministerial meeting to consider the measures to be taken and the decisions taken in the meeting fall in two categories One is supply manipulation. For instance, it has been decided to reduce the projections of sugar carry-over stocks for the current sugar season from 25 lakh tonnes to 15 lakh tonnes. This will naturally increase the availability of sugar in the near future. It has also been decided to ask the tea exporters to increase the domestic availability of tea. The result will be that the foreign exchange earnings will be sacrified in order to contain the domestic price of tea. This is the most short-sighted management of the economy. But it is, perhaps, in tune with the political nature of the Government.

Then, the second category is like this: In the matter of pricing in the economy, either order the industry to reduce the prices or impose price controls on it. There is a threat of partial price control in the case of cement also. One distressing aspect of the price situation is that in the case of certain items, the prices, instead of automatically coming down as per the dictates of the market, have registered a major increased. Sugar is one such item. With a substantial production this year, estimated at 10.7 million tonnes, there should been no shortfall in the availability of this product. The inference possible is that hoarding must have taken place at the producers' level.

Similarly, the steep increase in the price of edible oil is not exactly commensurate with the shortfall in the production of oilseeds. By going in for imports of oil which is cheaper in the international market, the Government hopes to hold the prices of this essential commodity.

This as well as the suspension of export of tea to the Soviet Union will, however, create further strain on the scare forign exchange resources. Though there are all well-intentioned steps. the National Front Government is yet to achieve a measure of success in holding the price line. The impact

of the Railways and the Union Budgets is felt on the markets. The drastic increase in the price of diesel and petrol and freight tariff has caused a chain reaction. The prices of many articles of mass consumption have risen more than the average of 8.4%. The prices of pulses and vegetables, according to the official data, have risen by 13.5 and 12.3 per cent, respectively. Sugar, khandsari and other products, their prices, were supposed to have brought down the last Government. Their prices measured on an annual point-to point basis rose by 12.2 per cent.

Salt was still worse. Its price on March 31 was as much as 17.8% more than it was in April 1989. Tea and coffee prices went up by an astronomical 35%. The price of oil cakes used as cattle feed was up by 20% on March 31 this year over April last year. The same has happened in the case of fertilizer, cement, steel and other building materials.

Similarly, the edible oil price was by 14% on an annual point-to point basis and oilseeds by 24.3%. The prices of cotton textiles as a group were up by 14% as of March 31 this year over April 1 1989. Within this group the prices of both powerloom and handloom clothes were up by 24% and 25%, respectively, while the mill cloth price was moderate at 8.4%

I should say that it is not an immediate spurt. It is a continuous process, not only during the present Government but during the previous Government also.

What are the main reasons? What are the measures to be adopted to save the common people from this abnormality and aberration. The first reason is the Economic Policy adopted by the Central Government either by the Congress Government or by the National Front Government. The second reason is the total failure of the measures that the Governments have so far followed. All our arms and ammunitions, I mean, our legal measures, to curb the price rise have become ineffective. First I come to the point of Economic Policies being followed.

There are 55 items whose prices are controlled administratively. In fact, more than four years ago the Government issued a Discussion Paper on Administered Price Policy but till this day the 'discussion' has not been completed. The Government continues to take ad hoc decisions on administered prices as it did in the past.

It should be recalled that in early 1981 there was a hefty increase in the administered prices and the motive then was to reduce budgetary deficits. Thus the economic mismanagement has reached such proportions that periodic increase in administered prices has been going hand in hand with the ever increasing budgetary deficits.

It was stated in the Discussion Paper that 'the policy on the administered prices must help to build up pressure for reducing costs'. This is precisely what has not happened. In fact, the contrary is happening.

Every year before the Budget, a debate takes place in India which has no parallel in other countries. This is a debate over pre-budget increases, the administered prices. The Chief Ministers, particularly belonging to opposition parties, scream every time such increases are announced. If only the Government had raised the excise duty on these item, instead of raising administered prices, the Chief Ministers say, the hike would be shared by the Centre and the States. But by hiring the price the Centre gets all gains at the expense of the States. Many economists also criticise pre-budget hikes as deception of the public, as a form of a taxation carried out with public knowledge or budgetary approval. This is a major shift in the policy of the Centre, through which the Centre wants to raise more resources and is not prepared to share the investment resources with the State Governments.

[Shri Pasumpon Tha. Kiruttinan]

Initially all countries have large Public Sector Units which raise their prices from time to time. But in those countries nobody thinks of a Public Sector price hike as a substitute for taxes or as deception of tax payers. Such a fuss is made in India only, because there are two reasons. One is that the Indian Government insists on controlling the prices of public sector units and does not give them the sort of autonomy in pricing. The second reason is that we have a special planning mechanism in India which looks on taxes and public sector surpluses as alternative ways of financing the annual plan.

The sudden and frequent increase in administered prices of coal, steel, petroleum products and other basic commodities have been one of the major causes of high rate of inflation. Most of the essential commodities are subsidised by State Government like Tamil Nadu and by the Central Government. So the burden on the respective Governments increases every year.

Sir, I would like to make it clear how the pre-budget hikes were made for all these years. In 1980-81, Rs. 2650 crores; 1981-82, Rs. 800 crores; 1982-83, Rs. 430 crores; 1983-84. Rs. 1270 crores; 1984-85, nil; 1985-86, Rs. 1125 crores; 1986-87, Rs. 1800 crores; 1987-88, Rs. 1718 crores; 1988-89, Rs. 2220 crores and 1989-90, Rs. 800 crores.

In this way the increase in prices of basic essential commodities like sugar, coal, steel, petrol, cement, rice, wheat, kerosene, power, etc. have added to the inflationary potential being created by monetary expansion.

Sir, several measures were taken by the Government to control the price line. They are: the Essential Commodities Act, the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, the Standards of Weights and Measures (Enforcement) Act, the Bureau of Indian Standards Act, the Standards of Weights Act and the MRTP Act.

These were the legislations that protected the interests of the consumer till 1986. The problem with these laws was that they were neither preventive nor punitive. In view of this, the Government must think in terms of comprehensive Consumer Protection Law. Thus, the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 came into force. This legislation was framed after in-depth study of consumer protection laws and managements in USA, UK, Australia and New Zealand. Good features of the legislations from these countries were suitably adopted in the light of social and economic condition prevailing in our country.

Consumers Protection Councils are to be set up in the Centre and the States under the Act, whose main function will be to promote and protect the rights of the consumers. Despite all these, the prices of most essential commodities have been rising unchecked and choking the consumers particularly those belonging to the salaried groups and middle class families.

While talking about the soaring prices, one would recall the effectiveness of Essential Commodities Act to deal with the people indulging in hoaring and blackmarketing. Despite amendments in this Act, two year ago to deal more strongly with blackmarketeers and hoarders the results have not been too encouraging and the present price rise could be easily attributed to several lacuane in the enactment.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. CHANDRESH P. THAKUR): Shri Ram Awadhesh Singh. Let us have an agreement. You will not speak longer than three minutes. That is my request to you.

श्री राम अवधेश सिंह : मान्यवर मैं बहुत संक्षेप में बोलूंगा । आपको अच्छा लगे तो अलाऊ करिएगा, अच्छा नहीं लगे तो मत करिएगा ।

मान्यवर इस समय इस मुल्क में और इस सदन में शायद ही कोई ऐसा विवेकशील आदमी हो जो इस बात को नहीं मानता हो, मंत्री जी तो चल दिए, मैंने आप ही पर बोलना था, इन्हीं से शुरु करना था। . . . (**व्यवधान**) . . . शायद ही इस देश में कोई इस समय आदमी हो इस सदन में और सदन के बाहर सड़क पर, जो यह बात न मानता हो कि बजट के बाद से चीजों की कीमतें बढ़ी हैं। यह बात निर्विवाद रुप से सत्य है। अब इसमें कुछ विवाद हो सकता है कि किस चीज की कीमत कितने परसेंट बढ़ी है, इसलिए परसेंट पर कुछ मतभेद हो सकता है।

मान्यवर, मैं यह कहना चाहता हूं कि जब यह बढ़ती कीमत सबको कचोटती है, सबकी आंत को मारती है तो फिर इस पर पार्टी के हिसाब से और इस तरफ से या उस तरफ से के हिसाब से बहस नहीं होनी चाहिए बल्कि निर्मोही होकर इस बढ़ती कीमत के कारणों पर प्रहार होना चाहिए और मान्यवर, मैं चाहता हूं कि इसके बारे में कुछ मूल कारण, जहां तक अभी बहस में बातें आईं तो आंकड़ों से गिनाया गया, मैं आंकड़ों के जंगल में नहीं जाना चाहता लेकिन मैं मूल कारणों की तरफ सरकार का ध्यान खींचना चाहता हूं कि मूल कारण क्या हैं? जिस गाड़ी में दिल्ली की ओर जाने वाला इंजन लगा हो, उसमें हम बैठें हों और यह कहें कि हम कलकत्ता जायेंगे तो चले जायेंगे दिल्ली, कलकत्ता जाने की बजाए। उसी तरह यह सरकार कहती है कि हम कीमत बांधेंगे और मंत्री जी ने कहा कि हमने 6000 ब्लैक मार्केटियर्स को बंद कर दिया, तो इससे चीजों की कीमत नहीं बंधती। . . (**व्यवधान**) . .

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Sir, there is no Minister in the House.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. CHANDRESH P. THAKUR): He is coming.

श्री राम अवधेश सिंह: ठीक है। मंत्री जी मैं आप पर संधा प्रहार करने के लिए तैयारी कर रहा था। मान्यवर, मंत्री जी ने कहा कि हमने 6000 ब्लैक मार्केटियर्स को बंद कर दिया, मैं आपसे निवेदन करना चाहता हूं कि चीजों की कीमत आज तक दुनिया में डंडे के जोर पर नहीं कम हुआ करती हैं। मैं पूछता हूं मंत्री महोदय से कि क्या 1977 में चीजों की कीमत बांधने के लिए जनता पार्टी की सरकार ने डंडे चलाए थे या व्यापारियों को बंद किया था? नहीं, नीतियों में परिवर्तन किया था। जो चीनी दोहरी नीति थी, उनको एक कलम से खत्म कर दिया तो जो 5.50 रुपए खुले से चीनी बिकती थी वह 2.25 रुपये खुले बिकने लगी।

श्री नाथूराम मिर्धा: उन्होंने ढाई साल में किया तो हमको थोड़ा मौका और दो। उन्होंने जो भी काम किया, ढाई साल में किया . . . (**व्यवधान**)

श्री वीरेन्द्र वर्मा: उनकी जो पालिसी थी उससे किसान को बरबाद कर दिया था।

श्री राम अवधेश सिंह: महोदय, मैं कह रहा था कि चीजों की कीमत उस समय बांधी गई थी और हमने 10000, 5000, 1000 के नोटों को एक रात में रद्द कर दिया था। तो इस तरह से हमने जो कदम उठाए थे उससे चीजों की कीमतें बांधी गई थीं लेकिन आज आप जो कह रहे हैं कि 4000 बंद कर देंगे। तो 4000 क्या 40,000 भी बंद कर दीजिएगा तो उससे भी चीजों की कीमतें नहीं बांधी जा सकती हैं।

मान्यवर, मैं आपसे निवेदन करना चाहता हूं कि यदि की-प्रोडक्टस की कीमतें आप बढ़ा दें और फिर कहें कि इसका क्युमुलेटिव इफेक्ट नहीं होगा और चीजों की कीमतें नहीं बढ़ेंगी, तो वह तो हो नहीं सकता। आप कीचड़ में कूदें जायेंगे और फिर कहेंगे कि मैं तो बहुत हाथ-पैर चलाता रहा लेकिन फिर भी कीचड़ लग गया। तो यदि आप कोयले का दाम बढ़ायेंगे, रेल का दाम बढ़ायेंगे तो कैसे होगा? मैंने उस समय

[श्रीराय अवधेश सिंह]

भी कहा था बजट भाषण में कि रेल, सेल यानी स्टील अथारिटी आफ इंडिया लिमिटेड, तेल और कोल, इन चारों पर जब तक नियंत्रण नहीं होगा, तब तक मंहगाई को बढ़ने से कोई रोक नहीं सकता है। ये चारों पब्लिक सैक्टर के हैं। यह आप नहीं कह सकते कि प्राइवेट सैक्टर के हैं और यदि इन चारों की कीमत आप बढ़ा देंगे तो दुनिया में कोई ताकत नहीं है जो बढ़ती हुई मंहगाई को रोक सके।

अगर स्टील की कीमत बढ़ेगी तो तेल पेरने वाली मशीन की कीमत बढ़ेगी, ट्रांसपोर्टेशन की कीमत बढ़ेगी, कपड़ा बुनने वाली मशीन की कीमत बढ़गी, उसके स्पयर पार्टस की कीमत बहगी और परिणामस्वरूप सभी चीजों की कीमत बढ़ेगी। मान्यवर, मैं आपको बताना चाहता हूं कि इनकी कीमत क्यों बढ़ती है? वह बढ़ती है भ्रष्टाचार के कारण। भ्रष्टाचार पर इनका नियंत्रण नहीं हैं। यह जो इस साइड में लोग बैठे हुए हैं कांग्रेस के, ये पब्लिक सैक्टर के बड़े-बड़े अधिकारियों से बड़ा-बड़ा चंदा लिया करते थे। स्टील अथारिटी वाले इनको 200 करोड़ रुपये देंगे, ओ.एन.जी.सी. वाले इनको 400 करोड़ रुपये देंगे। तो मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि क्या वही सिलसिला यह सरकार भी चला रही है?

श्री नाथूराम मिर्धा : कभी नहीं।

श्री राम अवधेश सिंह : फिर क्यों कीमत बढ़ रही है? आपने कोल की कीमत क्यों बढ़ाई, स्टील की कीमत क्यों बढ़ाई? आपने स्टील का दाम 500 रुपये टन बढ़ा दिया और 100 रुपये टन लोहे का दाम बढ़ा दिया और फिर आप चाहते हैं कि चीजों की कीमतें न बढ़ें, तो यह संभव नहीं है। इससे फायदा टाटा को होगा, टाटा को पहले 20 रुपये टन स्टील का दाम बढ़ाना होता था तो वह प्रधान मंत्री से लेकर एम०पी० के पीछे दौड़ लगाता था, तब जाकर स्टील का दाम 20 रुपये टन बढ़ता था। आज आप 500 रुपये टन बढ़ाते हैं आप घाटे को पूरा करने के लिए। कोयले के भ्रष्टाचार से जो घाटा होता है, उसको छिपाने के लिए आप कोयले का दाम बढ़ाते हैं। बंबई हाई में जो आप करोड़ों रुपये समुद्र में डालते हैं उसका कोई हिसाब नहीं है। वह कहते हैं कि हमने खोदा पर तेल मिला ही नहीं। चलिए उसमें 100 करोड रुपये लग गए लेकिन बाकी का कोई हिसाब नहीं है।

यदि आप पब्लिक सैक्टर पर नियंत्रण करेंगे और उसके घाटे को पूरा करने के लिए दाम बढ़ाऐंगे और डैफिसिट फाइनेंसिंग करेंगे तो को-प्रोडक्ट्स का दाम बढ़ेगा और उसकी वजह से सारी चीजों की कीमतें बढ़ेंगी। मान्यवर, मैं एक बात और कहना चाहता हूं।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो० चन्द्रेश पी० ठाकुर) : यह आखिरी बात होगी।

श्री राम अवधेश सिंह : आखिरी बात ही समझ लीजिए।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो० चन्द्रेश पी० ठाकुर) : आप जो कह रहे हैं बड़ा रोचक है लेकिन समय का भी ख्याल रखिए।

श्री राम अवधेश सिंह : रोचक है तो थोड़ी देर और चलने दीजिए। मुझको हैरत हुई जब मिर्धा जी ने कहा कि आपके जमाने में 14 रुपये चीनी थी तो हमने कहा था कि घटाइें, घटना इलाज नहीं है। एक नीति पर डा. राममनोहर लोहिया ने कहा कि चीजों की कीमत बढ़ने की नीति तय करो कि अन्न के दाम का घटना बढ़ना आन सेर के भीतर हो, कारखनिया माल का दाम लागत खर्च के ड्योढ़ा से किसी भी हालत में ज्यादा न हो, जिसमें ट्रांसपोर्टेशन कास्ट सब जुड़ी हुई हो, तो एक नीति बना देंगे तो उसके दायरे से बाहर नहीं जायेगा। तो मान्यवर, मैं कहना चाहता हूं कि जो हमने बनाया एम.आर.टी.पी., कहां गये? आज जो कम्युनिस्ट लोग वहां बैठे हुए हैं इन लोगों की भी

दोस्ती टाटा से हो गई। हम लोग समझते थे कि टाटा के खिलाफ कुछ कार्यवाही करेंगे। परन्तु यह लोग भी टाटा से दोस्ती कर... (व्यवधान)...हल्दिया का प्रोजेक्ट किसको मिला। टाटा को मिला।

श्री गुरदास दास गुप्त : दोस्ती का सवाल नहीं है यह ... (व्यवधान)

श्री राम अवधेश सिंह : आप लोग थोड़ी बड़ी बात सुनने की कोशिश करिये, यह सच्चाई है। आप भी बहुत डींग मारते थे, एम०आर०टी०पी० यह मोनोपोलि हाउस खत्म करो। टाटा मोनोपोलि हाउसिज नहीं है तो क्या है? आप बाद्यो भारत के संविधान की बात छोड़िये, आपके संविधान में क्या है?

जब यह लोग इधर सरकार में थे तो मैंने टाटा के खिलाफ कर चोरी का आरोप लगाया लेकिन इन्होंने कुछ नहीं किया। अब यह सरकार आई, इसके आने के बाद टाटा की कर चोरी का उसके अफसर का स्पष्ट हाथ का लिखा हुआ कि हम लोग कर चोरी कर रहे हैं, सरकार को दिया। परन्तु चार महीने से इस सरकार ने भी कुछ नहीं किया।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो. चन्द्रेश पी० ठाकुर) : राम अवधेश सिंह जी, आपको इसके लिए फिर मौका मिलेगा।

श्री राम अवधेश सिंह : लगता है कि मोनोपलि हाउसेज जो हैं वह कांग्रेसियों पर भी छाये हुए हैं और इस सरकार पर भी छाये हुए हैं तो जब तक मोनोपलि हाउसेज को खत्म करने की बात नहीं होगी तब तक आप दाम बढ़ाने की बात करेंगे। हम और आप चाहें वह करें यह बिल्कुल बकवास है और देश की जनता को धोखा देने का काम है और अब ज्यादा धोखा देने का काम नहीं चल सकता है। माननीय, इसलिए मैं चाहता हूं-मैं सुझाव दे रहा हूं ठीक करिये आप। डेफिसियेट फाईनेंसिंग न करना पड़े, उसके भ्रष्टाचार के घाटे के लिए हमको दाम न बढ़ाना पड़े और मोनोपलि हाउसेज को खत्म कीजिए और 1956 की इण्डस्ट्रियल पोलिसी को उसके सही रूप में उतारिए ताकि इण्डस्ट्रियल पोलिसी में बेसिक प्रोडेक्ट पब्लिक सेक्टर बनाये और कंज्यूमर्स कोर्टर्स स्माल स्केल इण्डस्ट्रिज में गांव-गांव में बने और गांव गांव में खपत हो ताकि गांव का पैसा गांव में रुके, तब चीजों की कीमत बंध सकती हैं नहीं तो इण्डस्ट्रियल पोलिसी का बड़ा मजाक उड़ायेंगे।

SHRI SHABBIR AHMAD SALARIA (Jammu and Kashmir): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, much has been said about the alarming rise in the prices of essential commodities. I would not, therefore, dwell upon the various figures which have been given in regard to the rise in prices. But it is an admitted fact that the situation is alarming. In this connection, I would only make certain suggestions.

Firstly, I would submit that the policy of the Government in regard to deficit financing should be reviewed and deficit financing should be lessened as far as possible. Secondly,...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. CHANDRESH P. THAKUR): Only one more minute left.

SHRI SHABBIR AHMAD SALARIA: Secondly, wasteful expenditure in the various departments of Government offices and in other enterprises should be curtailed as far as possible. Thirdly, since the increased excise duties are having an adverse effect on prices, this should also be reviewed. Fourthly, there should be a control on our borrowings so that our expenditure on debt-servicing is lessened. Number five, regarding sick public enterprises and private enterprises, it should be taken into consideration whether the nation is going to continue with such enterprises or not. Government should review this matter.

Number six, there is necessity for checking profiteering and hoarding.

But that needs character. I must submit that our business community and our people in the country have a crisis of character. Nobody cares for the nation. Everybody cares for himself. And that leads to increase in prices. People individually become rich, but the nation becomes poor.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. CHANDRESH P. THAKUR): That is all. I have to call the next speaker.

SHRI SHABBIR AHMAD SALARIA: And, lastly, corruption should be eradicated, wherever possible. Thank you.

PROF. SOURENDRA BHATTACHARJEE: Sir, I was listening to the speakers and remembering a particular saying of Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru which was earlier quoted by hon. Shri Dipen Ghosh. Immediately after Independence — during our young days when Pt. Nehru was also not as old as I am today — Pt. Nehru said that the black-marketeers would be hanged from the nearest lamp-post. It was a very bold declaration at that time. But in course of time, it turned into a very pathetic one when the black-marketeers and their black money got a hold on the Indian economy, a hold which has been continuing even now. Unless this stranglehold is cut off, the price problem cannot be solved.

One aspect of it was pointed out by someone — i.e. double pricing policy, as in the case of sugar or cement or some other articles Double pricing system is a direct invitation to unbridled profiteering which is being done in respect of various items at the present time Government will have to make up its mind whether it will continue or it will be put an end to.

Another thing is that to meet the price rise, salaried employees are provided with dearness allowance. This attraction of dearness allowance was so great that between 1973 and 1986, Government of India employees were content with instalments of dearness allowance instead of a new scale of pay. But as is well known, it is a vicious circle. There is an increase in prices, there is an increase in dearness allowance and there is corresponding increase in prices. Never does the dearness allowance neutralise the rise in prices. Therefore, the only solution is to help the Government to hold the price line. The price line should be held at a particular point. It should not be allowed to go jumping. Inflation, the amount of notes in circulation — there are so many aspects of the problem I need not go into it.

The double pricing should come to an end. Serious efforts should be made to hold the price line. And every effort should be made to make good the promises of the Prime Minister that within this particular month of May, prices would be brought down. Otherwise with the anger of the people as the guiding force, steps will have to be taken by the Government. Let the Government make good these promises. Thank you.

MESSAGE FROM THE LOK SABHA

The Appropriation (No. 2) Bill, 1990

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I have to report to the House the following message received form the Lok Sabha signed by the Secretary-General of the Lok Sabha:

> "In accordance with the provisions of rule 96 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, I am directed to enclose the Appropriation (No. 2) Bill, 1990, as passed by Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 16th May, 1990.
>
> 2. The Speaker has certified that this Bill is a Money Bill within the meaning of article 110 of the Constitution of India."

Sir, I lay the Bill on the Table.